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Animal study links cell phone use with cancer

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Ministry officials urgently called health experts in Australia, Britain and the US yesterday for more details about what has been described as the first serious piece of lab research linking cancer with exposure to electromagnetic radiation from the use of cellular phones.

The study, conducted on 200 mice, was led by Dr. Michael Repacholi at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in South Australia, and published in *Radiation*

Research, Vol. 147. The Australian authors claimed their article was turned down by the prestigious journal *Science* on the grounds that publication would cause panic, and by *Nature* because "it could not handle such important conclusions without the research being confirmed by further studies."

Dr. Avi Livnat, head of the ministry's medical device unit, who learned of the new study from *The Jerusalem Post*, stated that "the subject is important, thus we make efforts to update ourselves and

study it in depth."

The amount of time Israelis spend conversing over cellular phones is known to be several times that of Americans, who use them mostly while driving. Nearly one out of four residents here has a cellular phone.

Livnat added that electromagnetic radiation has been suspected for many years of posing health risks, but despite the accumulation of much data, "there has been no proof, if levels are within international limits, that they cause

health damage."

The text of the article, which last night had not yet reached Jerusalem, was requested by Livnat, who said that in the meantime the ministry will base its position on the US Food and Drug Administration, which recently "studied the matter carefully and reached the conclusion that there is as yet no proof of health dangers posed by cellular phone use. We will, of course, continue to study the matter and update the public on our findings."

Half of the mice were subjected to GSM-type pulsed microwaves at a power density roughly equal to a cellular phone handset transmitting for two half-hour periods a day. The electromagnetic radiation was equivalent to that emitted by a cellular phone, not the steady transmission of a cell-phone transmitting tower.

Over a period of 18 months, the exposed mice developed more than twice the rate of lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system) than those not

exposed to the cellular phone radiation. The tumors began to appear after nine months.

The scientists noted that the lab animals were transgenic mice specially bred to be susceptible to cancers of the immune system, but these mice are commonly used in such studies as proxies, since cancer-causing effects are believed to be cumulative at the cell level.

The Australians said that while physio-

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Labor sweeps to huge victory in UK



BRITISH ELECTIONS

News agencies

LONDON - Britons turned out in the millions yesterday to vote in an election that seems to have



British Labor Party leader Tony Blair and his wife Cherie pose outside their polling station in Sedgefield, northeastern England, before they cast their votes in yesterday's national election. (AP)

Local Brits quietly await results, Page 3

ended 18 years in the political wilderness for the rejuvenated Labor Party, with exit polls giving it a 159-seat majority in the 659-seat House of Commons - bigger than the Labor landslide that

swept Winston Churchill out of office in 1945.

Moments after polls closed, a BBC survey said Labor was projected to take 47 percent of the vote, compared to just 29 percent for

Conservatives. That would be the poorest Conservative showing since 1832.

The warmest day of the year attracted a brisk turnout and security forces were put on high alert

in case the Irish Republican Army launched a polling day attack.

Police searched Britain's 45,000 polling stations, following bomb

Continued on Page 14

Ross to return next week

HILLEL KUTTNER, MICHAEL YUDELMAN, and news agencies

US officials, led by special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, will return to the region next week in an attempt to restart the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"The president and Secretary [of State Madeleine] Albright are sending Ambassador Ross back again to consult further with the parties on the steps they're prepared to take to re-energize the process," State Department spokesman John Dinger announced.

As the announcement was made, the Palestinians appeared to be softening their position.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said that peace talks could resume even without freezing construction on Har Homa.

Kanafani said the Palestinians are willing to resume talks as long as they focus on their demands for an end to all settlement construction - including in Jerusalem - and on the scope of Israel's troop pullbacks.

"If they mean it, it's a change in their position," said David Bar-Ilan, an adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. But he said Israel would still demand that Arafat crack down on terrorist groups and fully restore security cooperation, which has been scaled back.

US officials believe the process is in its most dire straits since the signing of the Oslo Accords more than three years ago.

The US is focused now on at least bringing about a resolution of the remaining interim status

issues, one official said. Among those are a safe passage route between Gaza and the West Bank, the opening of Palestinian sea and air ports, and instituting economic arrangements that could benefit the Palestinians in the short term.

After Ross returns to Washington, Dinger said, President Bill Clinton "will be making some judgments about how the United States can best help the parties make progress."

Ross was last here two weeks ago. Dinger said he had no details of Ross's itinerary.

"I think a very important issue for all of us is the Middle East and the necessity of the US being involved there," Albright told reporters travelling with her to Moscow on Wednesday. "We have made quite clear that the US will continue to play the role of broker, but the parties themselves have to give us more to work with."

Channel 1 reported last night that the US is strongly urging both Israel and the Palestinians to refrain from any unilateral steps that might affect the shape of the final-status agreement.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur denied reports that the peace process is dead, as a senior ministry official had said. Bentsur said the statement, made by David Afek, head of the ministry's polit-

ical research center, had been taken out of context.

He said Afek's observation was made at a closed meeting on how to advance the peace process. "The ministry's position is that the peace process is alive and well," he said. "Efforts are being made to return the negotiations to their track and I'm sure this will happen soon."

Bentsur also denied a report in *Yediot Aharonot* that the Foreign Ministry has opened a "war file," calling it "strange. This report is groundless. There is no 'war file.' Nobody in the ministry has been asked or permitted to open such a mysterious file. The ministry is devoting all its efforts to advancing the peace process."

Commenting on the confusion surrounding Foreign Minister David Levy's meeting with Albright, which was announced as being scheduled for today, then postponed by two weeks after Washington officials said they didn't know of any such meeting, Bentsur said the misunderstanding was caused by "a human, technical error, which could happen in the most properly run ministries."

Bentsur explained that Levy "was invited by a most authorized person in the State Department, at Albright's request, to meet her on

Continued on Page 14

A message from our new publisher

By NORMAN SPECTOR

Two years ago, my term as Canadian ambassador here was ending and I began the traditional final round of calls on Israel's leaders.

I recall prime minister Yitzhak Rabin - in his trademark fashion - dismissing with a

wave of a hand the possibility that a Jew would ever kill another Jew. Opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu, for his part, outlined how he would move to the center by accepting the Oslo agreements during the coming election campaign he predicted would make him prime minister.

I remember the legal adviser to the

Defense Ministry, Elyakim Rubinstein - leaning back thoughtfully in his chair - explaining that the next time there was a peace initiative, it would be essential for Israel's leaders to bring more than half the nation with them. And Prof. Ephraim Inbar, head of the BESA Center at Bar-Ilan University, explaining that - as an obser-

vant Jew - he was being made to feel less and less at home in Israel.

In recalling these vignettes, among many others, I am taken aback by the magnitude of the changes that have ensued in two short years. And by a personal one, too, that some

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NEWS
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NEWS

in brief

Civil servants threaten to increase sanctions

Some 10,000 workers at 15 ministries continued their work... The Treasury says that the pay rise being demanded violates the new labor agreement...

Stabbing victim dies of wounds

Sallah Sa'almeh, 23, of Turan in Lower Galilee, who was stabbed Wednesday evening as part of a continuing confrontation between rival Moslem and Christian clans in the village...

Weizman visits Zavitzky home

President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, paid a condolence call yesterday at the Kfar Adumim home Hagit Zavitzky, who was found murdered last week in Wadi Kelt... Weizman responded by saying "that as much as I love Israel and places like these, I would suggest that members of Kfar Adumim be in touch with area IDF commanders and determine what is permissible and what is off-limits."

Federman appeals order limiting his movement

Hebron Jewish community activist Noam Federman yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan's order prohibiting him from leaving his home between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. and entering Palestinian Authority-controlled areas of Hebron... According to Federman the order was not issued out of security considerations, but to block his political activities.



Noam Federman (Nissan Shorel)

Former police officer arrested for fraud

Two Israelis, one a retired police officer, are being held in London for allegedly attempting to cheat banks there out of \$5 million, according to Scotland Yard... Bella Weinstock, formerly head of internal police investigations, is to be remanded today... "People in Israel know that my mother is one of the most honest women in the country through her service in the police force... She was arrested a week ago in London because of a complaint from a prominent resident there."

Betar youth clash with neo-Nazis in Paris

Members of the Betar youth movement staged a protest in Paris yesterday against the mass demonstration by French rightists, including supporters of the National Front and neo-Nazis, to mark May Day... The Betar protesters clashed with young neo-Nazis, and four Betar youths were arrested. Two were later released.

Motorcyclist hit by car

A motorcyclist was seriously injured last night when he was hit by a car that was turning left across the road into Moshav Nehalim. The motorcyclist, who was coming in the opposite direction, was brought to The Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva.

Police remove settler caravans

170 officers hold midmorning raid on Mitzpe Yericho

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Settlers of Mitzpe Yericho were left shocked yesterday after a midmorning police raid removed two caravans that had been erected on a hilltop in the 180-family settlement. Police detained four settlers who attempted to prevent the caravans' removal, but they later released them.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said that 170 officers, including police, Military Police and civil administration personnel, took part in the raid, which lasted two hours.

Sivan said the police planned to charge two settlers who lived in the caravans. Sivan said that settlers threw nails and other sharp objects on the road in an attempt to stop the operation.

However, settlers charged that police brutally shoved settlers who were standing on the road, "passively" attempting to prevent the caravans from being hauled away.

Settlement secretary Sarah Sarel charged that the police stormed into the settlement, disarming the guard at the entrance. When the guard questioned their actions, he was told that they were searching for Beduin suspects, she said.

Sivan countered that the operation was kept under wraps until the last minute, as police feared the settlers would violently resist any attempt to move the caravans.

"The two caravans were erected a month ago," Sarel said, adding that police ignored the 20 other caravans set up for young couples at the same time, that are situated on the other side of the settlement.

But Sivan said that the two caravans had been erected a few days ago and that it was a clear case of illegal construction.

Sarel said she demanded to see an official order, but instead was shown a paper written by the Central Command's legal adviser.

According to Sivan, because the caravans were erected only days ago, a permit wasn't necessary. He added

that the operation was carried out only after security forces and OC Central Commander Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and Judea and Samaria Police Commander Yossi Sidbon had reviewed the issue and read the legal adviser's report.

Sarel said the settlers were dismayed by the police action. "We have always maintained the law and educate our children to abide by it," she said. "If they had notified us beforehand, we would have at least had time to remove the furniture and prevent it from being smashed up by police."

A settler at the site told Arutz 7. "We were astonished to see, only a week after a double terrorist murder case to here, that this is how our government acts."

Pinhas Wallerstein, Binyamin Regional Council head and chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said the civil administration ignores most of the building violations in the Arab sector, but is "fastidiously stringent" with the Jewish communities.

Beilin meets Gush Etzion leaders

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Labor Party leadership candidate MK Yossi Beilin met with settlement leaders from Gush Etzion yesterday and presented his ideas for rescuing the peace process.

The settlers were left unsure as to Beilin's motives for meeting with them. Some called it a "pure political move to gain votes in the upcoming [Labor Party] elections." Others were willing to listen, but unable to accept Beilin's solutions.

During the week, Beilin also met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and several foreign leaders. The meetings drew criticism from senior government officials, one of whom expressed amazement that "someone unauthorized to represent the state so brazenly seeks to put in motion a duplicate foreign policy."

Attending yesterday's meeting were Gush Etzion Regional Council Chairman Shilo Gal, Efrat Mayor Yonon Ahimian, Efrat councilman Michael Vaknin and several rabbis from the region.

Ahimian, who refused to say who had arranged the meeting, said that Beilin presented his ideas and the settlers gave him a list of their objections. According to Ahimian, some of the points raised by Beilin related to future pullbacks.

"He told us that the remaining 50,000 settlers would have to get used to the idea of living under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority," he said. Ahimian said that Beilin also raised the possibility of transferring large amounts of land in the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert to the Palestinians during future pullbacks.

"Needless to say, we rejected the idea," he said.



Palestinians mark May Day

Palestinian girls dance on a stage opposite Har Homa yesterday, during a May Day convention of Palestinian notables, who called for an end to building there. Bulldozers have stripped half the hill of trees. The Palestinian Authority closed all offices in towns under its control for May Day, which PA Chairman Yasser Arafat declared a national holiday earlier this week. (Rear: Jon Innes; Photo: Brian Henders)

Israel, US, Turkey to hold strategic dialogue

By STEVE RODAN

Representatives of Israel, Turkey and the US are to convene next week for the first strategic dialogue among the three countries and to plan their forthcoming naval exercises in the Mediterranean, officials said yesterday.

The US participation, officials said, marks the importance Washington attaches to the defense relationship between Ankara and Jerusalem.

The Israeli delegation will be led by Defense Ministry senior adviser David Ivry. The Turks will be

headed by Gen. Cevik Bir, deputy chief of the Turkish general staff. An unnamed senior representative of the US Army will represent the US.

Bir is regarded as the most prominent figure in the Turkish military. He is solidly pro-Western, a fervent advocate of ties with Israel, and an officer whose mission has been to protect Turkey's secular democracy from Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Sources involved in the dialogue said the talks will deal with immediate and medium-term issues. The immediate concerns are wrap-

ping up the details of a US-Israeli-Turkish sea exercise in the Mediterranean, planned over the next few weeks.

The longer term goal of the talks is to discuss strategy for dealing with what the countries regard as the emerging threats in the Middle East, particularly Iran and Syria. For several years, defining those threats has been a source of dispute between the US and Israel, as well as Israel and Turkey.

The talks follow this week's visit of Turkish Defense Minister Tunc Yaman, who ends his three-day visit today. Yesterday, Yaman toured IDF bases in the North and

met with President Ezer Weizman and today he will meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The meeting will come after the cabinet is scheduled to discuss the IDF's request for up to NIS 100 million to fund a program to provide gas masks and other equipment to defend against a chemical weapons attack. Israeli military sources said Syria is producing VX nerve gas that could be installed in Damascus's ballistic missiles.

Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran said the ballistic missile race is a key subject in the US-Israeli strategic dialogue.

In an interview with Air Force Magazine, Biran said the missile race has led Israel to try to speed up development of the Arrow anti-missile defense system.

Biran said that the US has decided to increase its funding of the Arrow program from \$30m. to \$48m. over the next four years. He added that Israeli investment in Arrow would also increase, but would not elaborate.

According to Biran, the US will provide \$30m. in 1998 for the Nautius laser anti-rocket project, meant to destroy short-range rockets and mortars by laser beam. A Growing Alliance, Page 9

Advertisement for COMMSTOCK featuring the headline 'SOME OF THE WORLD'S FINEST BROKERS ARE RIGHT HERE IN ISRAEL'. It lists services like foreign securities, currency and commodity future, and Tel Aviv stock exchange division.

Advertisement titled 'MORE MURDERS...AND MORE EXCUSES!' promoting an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recruitment form for young Jews.

Advertisement for The Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem congratulating Mr. Charles Bendheim for being awarded the title Ne'emman Yerushalayim.

Advertisement for AMCHA (Centers for Psychosocial Support of Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation) listing YOM HASHOAH HOTLINES.

Advertisement for 'Luxurious Apartments for Immediate Entrance in Ganei Har Nof, Jerusalem' with details on room types and prices.

Advertisement congratulating Mr. Charles Bendheim on becoming a staff member of KOFFOLK (1949) Ltd. in Ne'emman Yerushalayim.

Advertisement for 'Winning cards and numbers' listing lottery results and drawing details.

Advertisement for 'infomayda' (איןפומי) offering books, articles, and publications from Israel and abroad.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

The holiday that wasn't

Twenty-five, maybe 30 years ago, May Day was marked by marches, worker solidarity demonstrations, singing of the "Internationale," and a day off from work.

Yesterday, it passed with hardly any notice.

Hadash sponsored a couple of demonstrations; the Histadrut held a symposium; some Histadrut workers and workers' committee members picnicked at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. But, for the overwhelming bulk of the country, May Day was no more than the first day of May, Thursday. Payday. Two days post-Mimouna. The ninth day in the counting of the Omer.

"May Day has not disappeared, it has just changed form," said Meretz MK Anat Maor, hopefully.

"May Day disappeared because of the gap between the words of those who forced the holiday on people, and their actions for the workers," said former Histadrut head Haim Ramon, matter-of-factly.

"May Day was never needed here. Why did we need a day of solidarity with Communist regimes?" said former Meretz MK Mordechai Virshubski, candidly.

Virshubski, now a Tel Aviv city councillor, remembers May Days when there were four-hour marches in Tel Aviv, when 90 percent of employees didn't go to work, when 90 percent of the pupils didn't go to school.

"I remember when the only paper that came out on May Day was the National Religious Party's *Hatzofeh*," he said.

How times have changed. "What do you expect?" Maor asked. "What hasn't changed in the country over the last 25 years?"

Virshubski doesn't miss the holiday. "We have more than enough holidays, or half days off, or days off after holidays. One less day like this is not lacking," he said.

Ramon, who as head of the Histadrut was once quoted as



Hundreds of people, many of them youngsters, march through the streets of Nazareth yesterday, en route to a May Day rally sponsored by Hadash. (Kaminsky/Israel Sun)

saying May Day is "not a holiday for me," also has no nostalgic feeling for the red flag, marches and closed work places. "There were days, maybe 40 years ago, when the day was a real holiday," Ramon said. "But from the mid-1960s, it was a day that was forced on the workers."

A holiday the people don't want, he said, is destined to disappear. Ramon recommended moving the day marking workers' rights to Hanukka. Why Hanukka? Because, he said, of its connection to freedom. Maor, struggling to show that

May Day and its message of workers' rights has not disappeared but just taken on a different appearance, noted that the Histadrut held a symposium yesterday on a proposed basic law on workers' rights. Meretz also held a worker-related symposium, but the only party to organize any kind of protest or demonstration was Hadash.

Hadash's demonstrations were not restricted to issues such as shorter hours and more pay, but also against the government's handling of the Bar-On Affair, against the govern-

ment's politics, against the settlements.

These types of May Day rallies are a major reason many Jews have lost their enthusiasm for, or identification with, the holiday, said Baruch Kimmerling, a Hebrew University sociologist. Kimmerling said that since the Communists in Israel have always taken a big part in these events, many Jews have become less interested.

But, he said, this is obviously not the only reason for May Day's demise. The waning importance of the holiday, both in Israel and around the world,

has to do with the victory of capitalism, the decline of communism, the increase of individualism.

Hadash's Tamar Gozansky also blamed "30 years of occupation. Because of the occupation, all social issues have been pushed to the side."

The decline of May Day, she said, is a shame. "It is the only day that was common to everyone," she said. "Think of it; all the other holidays around the world are linked either to religious or national dates. Only one day remains. Wrong. Only one remained."

Massala: Hammer still pushing prize for Schnitzer

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

MK Adisu Massala (Labor) yesterday accused Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of doing everything in his power to still give the Israel Prize in Journalism to controversial *Ma'ariv* journalist Shmuel Schnitzer.

The High Court of Justice last week ruled that the Israel Prize committee should reconsider whether Schnitzer should get the prize, in light of a journalistic ethics committee finding that Schnitzer had written a racist article about the Falash Mura in 1994.

"The repeated failed attempts by the education minister and his advisers to get Shmuel Schnitzer to apologize for what he wrote, slandering the Ethiopian community, are being made simply to pave the way for the prize committee to find a way to still give him this prestigious prize," Massala said in a statement yesterday.

Hammer "will do anything he can to make this unclean thing kosher" and give the prize to

Schnitzer, whom Massala said was personally close to the minister.

Massala said that Schnitzer was still unwilling to retract what he had written about the Falash Mura, and his claim that he had not intended to hurt anyone was only being made now to get the prize.

"Schnitzer knows very well that his words severely hurt members of the community, and never retracted his racist remarks," he said.

Massala's lawyer, Eyal Rozovsky, yesterday asked the minister's adviser on the Israel Prize, Dr. Dov Goldberger, to allow him to appear before the prize committee when it discusses whether to award Schnitzer the prize. Massala said he was sure that once the committee considers the situation, it will not award the prize to Schnitzer.

Hammer, meanwhile, accused Massala of using the Schnitzer issue for his own political gain. Hammer stressed that an independent committee selects the winners and he does not interfere in its decision-making process.

Ex-refusenik's wife gets life for axing husband to death

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Rita Gluzman, who once staged an 18-day hunger strike to free her husband from the Soviet Union, was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for murdering him with an ax.

Yakov Gluzman, 48, a prominent Ukrainian-born cancer researcher, once with the Weizmann Institute of Science, was hacked to death in April 1996. His mutilated body parts were discovered in eight garbage bags, after police stopped Vladimir Zelenin, Rita Gluzman's cousin, for what appeared to be littering. Zelenin later pleaded guilty in the murder.

Rita Gluzman insisted throughout the court proceedings in White Plains, New York, that she was not guilty of murdering her husband. Yakov Gluzman had planned to divorce her and to return to Israel to join a scientist with whom he was in love, according to yesterday's editions of *The New*

York Times.

Gluzman had been a distinguished member of the biology department at Moscow State University when his wife, then pregnant with their son, Ian, emigrated to Israel in 1970. She staged a hunger strike in front of the UN in 1971 and testified before the US Congress to help free her husband.

Gluzman was permitted to leave the Soviet Union in 1971, and worked at the Weizmann Institute before coming to the US in 1977. In 1981, he developed a cancer research method that has become standard practice in laboratories around the world.

"For 25 years, she gradually demolished him emotionally and in the 26th year she dismembered him physically," Gluzman's parents, Chaim and Sophia Gluzman, said in a letter sent to the court from Israel. "By her evil act, Rita has ruined the life of her son, whom she left fatherless, and marked him with the stigma of a mother convicted for murder."

Cancer becoming leading killer here

By JUDY SIEGEL

Within a few years, cancer will overtake heart disease as the leading cause of death here, according to senior Tel Aviv University and Sheba Hospital epidemiologist Prof. Baruch Modan.

At the same time, lower smoking rates have begun to have an effect. Lung cancer has dropped to the second most prevalent cancer among men, after prostate cancer.

Addressing the 13th conference of TAU's Center for Biological Research into Cancer in Tiberias, Modan said that every year, some 15,000 new cases of cancers are diagnosed here. The numbers continue to rise gradually, just as the death toll from cardiovascular disease has been declining due to better treatment and prevention.

Modan noted that there have been some achievements in pre-

ventive medicine in recent years: "Restaurants have no-smoking areas, and even the most nervous airline passenger can't smoke in the airport when he passes customs. And public pressure has only begun," he said.

However, Israel is still way behind the US, he said, adding: "We still lack the 'shame over smoking' that is so tangible in the US. And we still see doctors and nurses smoking in hospitals, some even at the patient's bedside."

Modan, a former Health Ministry director-general, noted that while much has yet to be done in researching the connection between genetics and cancer, the amount of funds that the state dedicates to cancer research and prevention "is far from what is needed to meet the potential of the researchers. The time has come for a change."

Local Brits quietly await election results

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Anyone who went looking last night for groups of Brits gathered over beer mugs in pubs, cheering or jeering as their national election results rolled in on the BBC, would likely have been disappointed.

"Election, what election?" joked one worker at the British Council offices in Tel Aviv, when asked whether there

were any events organized around the broadcast of election returns. Whether it was due to lack of suspense because of the predicted landslide by Labor, or simply characteristic English restraint, no American-style exuberant election-night extravaganzas were planned.

Though exact figures are unavailable, anecdotal evidence shows that relatively few British citizens living in Israel vote in the British national elections. This may be because the British system of overseas voting is a bit unwieldy. Those who wanted to take part in this election would have had to pick up a form at the embassy and sent it to their local district way back in October. On the form, they would have had to designate a proxy voter to cast either a postal ballot for them or vote in person in their stead. And after 20 years of residence abroad, British citizens lose their right to vote.

A British Embassy official said that of the estimated 30,000 British citizens living here, only a few thousand picked up the forms.

Many British citizens here said they felt unaffected by the prospect of victory by Tony Blair's Labor Party after 18 years of Conservative rule. Others said they felt caught up in election fever, albeit long-distance, particularly because they felt this campaign marked a turning point in the rela-

tionship between Britain's Labor Party and Israel.

"I've been watching television all night for groups of Brits gathered over beer mugs in pubs, cheering or jeering as their national election results rolled in on the BBC, would likely have been disappointed."

"Election, what election?" joked one worker at the British Council offices in Tel Aviv, when asked whether there



BRITISH ELECTIONS

change of generation. "Traditionally, there has always been a sense that Labor would be bad for Israel and bad for the Jews, but that is really no longer true," she said. "Many people I speak to in England are voting Labor, which wasn't the case back when I lived there. Jews tended to vote Conservative."

Simon Monk of Netanya, agreed that "for a long time the Conservative Party has been far more pro-Israel than Labor. John Major removed the arms-buying embargo, Margaret Thatcher was favorable toward the Jews and Israel, there were several anti-Zionists in the Labor Party. Since Tony Blair has come to power you hear a lot more pro-Israel comments and lot less anti-Zionism."

"Tony Blair, has done a lot more to curry favor with [the] UK Jewish community than any Labor leader did in the past," he said. The mood at the British Embassy and British Council offices was relatively quiet yesterday.

"It's pretty calm now, but I think the excitement will grow," Ambassador David Manning said early in the day. Since complete results will not be in until early in the morning, Manning chose to host staffers at his home to ponder the results over scrambled eggs this morning at his residence.

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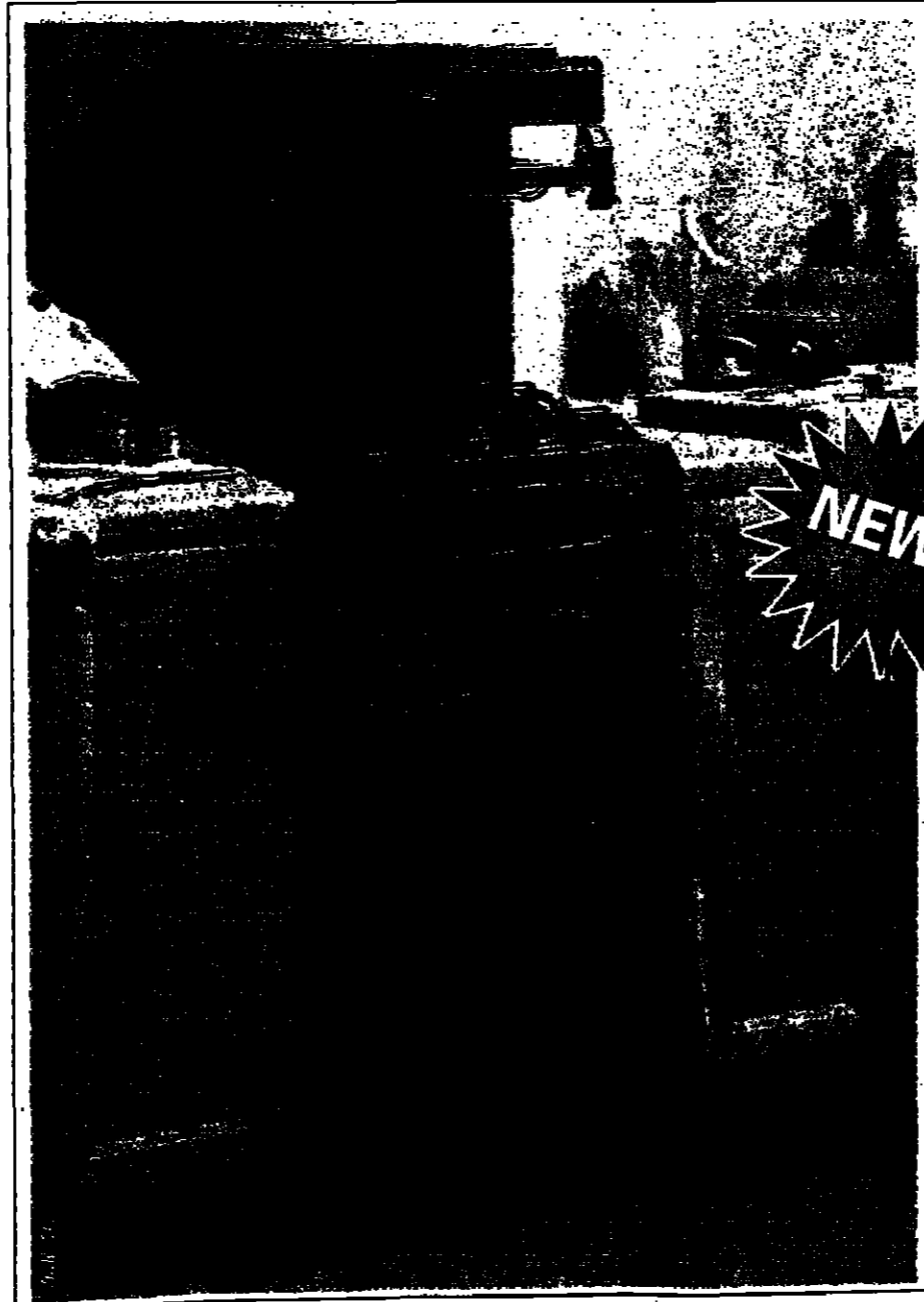
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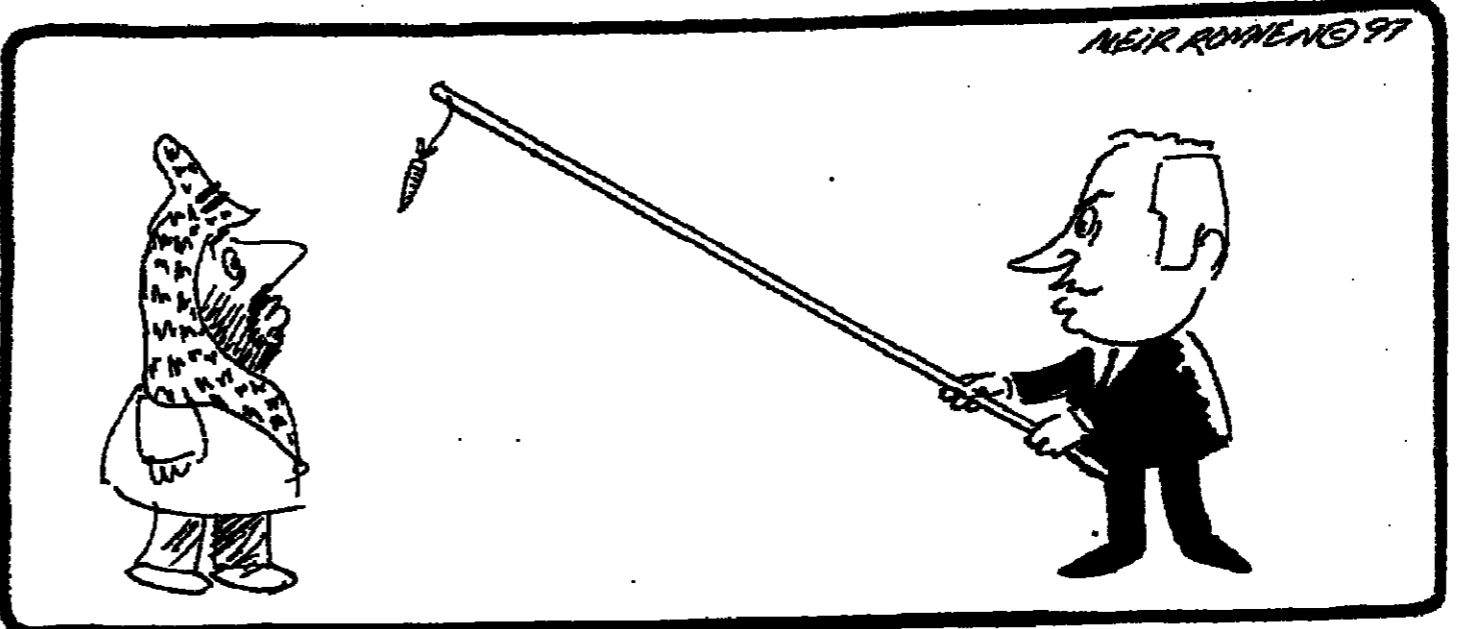
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A misguided initiative

Rumors of the death of the peace process - Foreign Ministry officials notwithstanding - are premature. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak is trying to cobble together a summit, MK Yossi Beilin is shuttling around, and the US is contemplating its own package deal. In short, the usual jockeying that has always gone on is still going on, though now it is being called "saving the peace process." It is fair to ask why Beilin is involved. Some of his Labor Party colleagues accuse him of simply trying to grab headlines before the party's June primaries. But the real problem with Beilin's effort is not that he is trying to further his party leadership campaign, but that Israel has only one government at a time, and competing foreign policies can only undermine Israel's negotiating position. Beilin's initiative, however sincerely meant, is unfortunately not only a rogue initiative but a misguided one. His plan, which is quite similar to a reported US initiative, has five points: Both sides will refrain from any unilateral activity that "shall oppose the letter and spirit of the Oslo Agreements," - in other words, a settlement freeze (including "settlements" in Jerusalem); the first further redeployment will be implemented immediately and the second will be negotiated with the Palestinians; final-status talks will be accelerated; both sides will commit to preventing terror and violence, and they will pledge to renew joint efforts to combat terror. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat reportedly accepts the Beilin initiative. He has no reason not to. After all, the Beilin plan requires Israel to accept Palestinian demands that go beyond Oslo, while the Palestinians are allowed to keep open the gaping holes in their own compliance with the accord. As someone who proudly claims to have launched the Oslo process, one might think Beilin would be more interested in seeing the subsequent agreements upheld. Beilin, better than most, knows that Oslo does not limit Israeli building in the territories, let alone in Jerusalem, and that any restriction to that effect represents a substantial expansion of Oslo. He further knows that the Palestinians are in violation of Oslo's limits on weaponry and police, requirements to transfer terrorist suspects, prohibitions on operations in Jerusalem, and other matters. Beilin and other zealous defenders of Oslo's honor should be the first to demand full compliance of both sides before moving on. Instead, they are busy trying to rewrite the agreement in the Palestinians' favor, as if the problem was that the agreement was not demanding enough on Israel. Ironically, Oslo's defenders are doing precisely what they accuse the Netanyahu government of doing - trying to squirm out of the aspects of Oslo that have become inconvenient. The peace process cannot be "saved" by letting the Palestinians out of their side of the bargain, while tightening the reins on Israel. What Oslo's proponents should understand better than others is that the more existing agreements are seen to be binding only on Israel, the harder it will be for Israel to enter any future agreements. The Oslo process was never meant to be an end in itself, but a trial run leading to a stable, final agreement. Oslo was supposed to build each side's confidence in the other's ability to make tough choices and abide by commitments. When Oslo becomes more binding on Israel while hanging limply around the Palestinians, it will not only fail in its task of confidence-building, but become actively confidence-sapping. No one ever said Oslo was perfect or sacred, but it is an agreement. The only way to adjust it in midstream - without undermining the prospects for future agreements - is to balance the changes in favor of both sides. If the Palestinians are unwilling to move forward without adding a settlement freeze to Oslo, fine. What are they willing to give? What confidence-building measures are they proposing? Recommitting to previously made promises is certainly necessary - such as combating terror - but hardly sufficient. The Netanyahu government seems to be attempting to resist the pressure to unilaterally add to its Oslo obligations by simply saying no. Instead, Netanyahu should be willing to take on new Israeli obligations, provided they are matched by changes to Oslo that are in Israel's interest. The implicit idea among many Oslo proponents, including the United States, that the Palestinians are the weaker party and therefore Israel must give unilaterally, will not wash. The reason is that in the final-status talks, both sides will have to give, and they have to start getting used to that idea now. The Palestinians may be weak, but they are not going to get an unlimited Palestinian state, half of Jerusalem, all of the West Bank and Gaza, and the "right of return." On the other hand, Israel may be strong, but it is not going to free itself from controlling over 2 million Palestinians without allowing them more than the autonomy envisioned in Camp David. The whole point of the Oslo Agreements was to teach the parties how to compromise. By working with the Palestinians to extract unilateral Israeli concessions, the United States and Oslo's defenders are teaching the Palestinians exactly the wrong lesson.



Getting back on track

When the Bar-On Affair erupted, I kept silent. When everything was buzzing like a hornet's nest, I did not express an opinion. I thought it better to allow the legal and justice systems to work quietly, without pressure or interference. I hoped for the best. I hoped that the truth would emerge victorious. Apparently, however, so far neither has truth won, nor have heart and soul been visible. I also did not join the wavering "agonizers." Public expressions of internal wrestling do not, in my opinion, turn us into people of high morals and conscience. I also did not respond to the actions of some of the members of the left-wing opposition. They did not surprise me. Their support for political positions held by Israel's enemies during tough times goes back a long way. And yet, one must ask whether everything happening in Israel is normal, whether it can go on like this. And what should the government be doing if it is to be able to go on functioning. The following steps should be taken regardless of what government is in power. An immediate change in the Direct Election Law should be effected. In the absence of systems of checks and balances, Israel has become a country controlled by one man. This is an intolerable situation, and it makes no difference who that one man is, or how talented he may be. In order to continue the peace process, which all of us want, and in order not to be pushed back to the Green Line, the government must finally make a decision about what Israel's goals are: irrelevant considerations. The government must consider aliya its foremost national objective. At least a million Jews remain in the former Soviet Union. There is an awakening about aliya in France, and growing interest in other countries. While we are dragging our feet in taking advantage of this enormous potential, other countries and foreign industries are enlisting much of our brainpower. We must invest in providing Jewish and Israel-related education in the former Soviet Union and in the West. While we are not doing enough to encourage aliya, the Palestinians have been implementing - in violation of the Oslo Accords - the "right of return." Thousands of Palestinians, the offspring of the 1948 refugees, have returned to Galilee. Some of them married Israelis and automatically became citizens. Nearly 10,000 Negev Beduin have married Palestinian women from Gaza and the Hebron area, making them Israeli citizens. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have returned from Jordan to Judea and Samaria, and this "aliya" continues full speed ahead. Yet nobody utters a word. And what about the illegal appropriation of land in the Negev, where we have already lost about 1.5 million dunams? What about the Palestinian penetration and appropriation of land on the Israeli side of the Green Line; and the illegal Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem? All of these issues were raised countless times during cabinet meetings, yet there has been no response and no answer, only amazing weakness. While we are losing control of the Negev, the ministerial committee for the development of the Negev and Galilee has not yet been established. The committee should strengthen the development towns and create new settlements. Hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign investment, as well as thousands of jobs, will be lost as a result of not having implemented the decision to establish a free-trade zone in the Negev. We need to stop the collapse of Israeli agriculture. We must calm the commotion the conversion bill has caused among American Jewry. All of these issues are important. This government was elected to do great things, not all of which I mentioned here. The time has come to be serious, to overcome the weakness which has befallen us. We have a lot to do. The writer is national infrastructure minister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CARNAGE ON OUR ROADS

Sir - Channel 1's leading TV news item after Pesach was that there has been a 20 percent increase in road fatalities, in comparison to the same period last year. This, despite the fact that the government is spending millions of shekels in a public relations campaign to reduce deaths and injuries on the roads. The Israel Center for Driver Research and Injury Prevention, together with METUNA, invites the public to an emergency meeting on Tuesday, May 6, at 8 p.m., at Beit Agron in Jerusalem, at which time we will spell out a clear program on how the public can bring pressure to bear on the government to effectively enforce the traffic laws and adopt new standards of enforcement that will reduce road deaths and injuries. The application of scientifically proven techniques can and has reduced road tragedies internationally, and in a pilot program for six months in Netanyahu. The Israel Center for Driver Research and Injury Prevention has evaluated effective life-saving programs, such as the one in Netanya, which could easily be applied to the rest of the country. The sooner that the public pressures for a change in enforcement policy, the sooner we will be able to save precious lives on our roads. ZVI WIENBERGER, PROF. GERALD BEN DAVID, Jerusalem.

COMMEMORATION IN LITHUANIA

Sir - In a quarter-page advertisement on April 11, the World Zionist Organization invites "all who feel a close affinity to our Jewish past and our spiritual heritage" to participate at Succot in their conference in Lithuania, where over 220,000 of our Lithuanian Jewish mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters were brutally murdered by the Nazis, with the full and total cooperation and participation of the people of Vilna, Kovno and the other places mentioned in the ad. It is surprising that, instead of commemorating the 200th anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Eigh of Vilna in Jerusalem, the World Zionist Organization, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, ministers, and members of Knesset will commemorate it in the shadow of the death camps and the mass graves. It would seem that in order to learn about our Jewish past and our spiritual heritage, the participants should have been brought to Jerusalem instead, to spend several always-to-be-remembered days of study with the great Jewish scholars here, the true perpetrators of the spiritual heritage of Rabbi Eigh of Vilna. The Gaon of Vilna's physical remains lie in the ashes of a destroyed Lithuanian Jewry. Whatever still lives of the Gaon's philosophy and thought can only be perceived here. YITZHAK GUMENIK, Jerusalem.

THE FATE OF OUR MIAS

Sir - Once again we are witness to the sorry spectacle of the defense minister and the chief of staff singling out Ron Arad and pointedly ignoring the MIA's from Sultan Yalut, Zvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz and Zachary Baumer. Many people whom we don't know as well as veteran reporters have called us to affirm our allegiance for this commemoration. It is too simplistic to say that there is the IDF and there is the air force. An examination of the facts shows that that all the reports of Arad being alive are unfortunately not supported by fact. On the other hand, the reports of the demise of the Sultan Yalut MIA's have all been proven true. Much fanfare was given to FOC reports that the MIA's were buried in Syria. It was a closed, guarded secret that the supposed site was evacuated and found empty. The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin publicly stated that Arad was not supplying information for fear of retaliation on the part of President Arafat. We understand the dilemma of the security services in such cases, but this should not all be a deterrent towards bringing the boys home. An important public inquiry into the fate of the MIA's intelligence files and the political will to their preservation. MIRIAM AND YONAH MEL, Jerusalem.

ZIONIST-NATIONALIST VIEWPOINT

Sir - There is a plethora of left-leaning movements active amongst English-speakers in Israel - but those having a Zionist-nationalist viewpoint are virtually unrepresented and certainly unorganized. In order to remedy this situation I feel that an organization should

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MICHAEL S. BLOCH

Kochav Yaar.

Scandals are not the issue

You can't beat something with nothing. This law of nature also applies to Israeli politics in general, and the effort to replace Prime Minister Netanyahu in particular. Despite the scandals and mistakes, public opinion polls do not show a significant decline in support for the prime minister. The fundamental reason is that despite all his faults, there is no serious challenger on the horizon. One year after the election, the Labor Party is still incapacitated, with Shimon Peres pathetically clinging to the helm, and the other candidates fighting both Peres and each other. A majority of Israelis still continue to prefer Netanyahu, and all to the possibility of Peres becoming the head of government. Like Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, and director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman, the team of Peres, Haim Ramon and Nissim Zivli sought to buy the support of Shas and Agudat Yisrael in the 1999 "working man's" and perhaps in other instances as well, so there is no mileage for Peres on this score. Senior Peres, Ehud Barak is the front runner, but he has his own problems which are in many ways comparable to those of Netanyahu. The former IDF head who experienced in politics, is perceived as arrogant and a solo player, and has a closet full of skeletons, particularly involving his behavior during the training accident at Ze'elim in 1982. The IDF accounting from that incident has yet to be completed, and questions regarding matters to cover the investigation persist. The fact that Barak is 49 and a divorced

When it comes to dealing with terrorism, security and the status of Jerusalem, there is no credible opposition to the PM

work, and barring national disasters, Barak is unlikely to succeed in a much shorter period. More importantly, Barak and the other candidates from the Labor Party are associated with the Oslo process and its failures. Less than one year ago, Netanyahu was elected precisely as a result of the wave of suicide bombings and the clear lack of action on the part of the Palestinian leadership in preventing continued terrorism. Far from being an electoral advantage, the peace process was viewed in a negative light by enough Israelis to swing the result of the election. Since then, the policies of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have not changed. Netanyahu may have many faults, but he is credited with being tough when it comes to the issues of terrorism, security and on Jerusalem. The importance of these issues overshadows the fallout from the Bar-On Affair deal and the incom-

POSTSCRIPTS

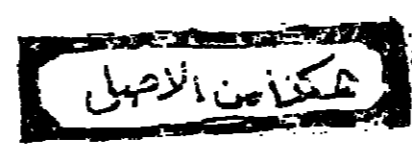
A ROOSTER that lost its legs to frostbite is strutting again with a pair of artificial limbs. Mr. Chicken, of Jackson, Michigan, was brought to veterinary Timothy England, who adopted and named him. Despite England's care, Mr. Chicken lost both legs at the first joint. Dressed in special bandages, the bird was still able to walk on its stumps. The doctor footed the bill for the prosthetic feet, which he hopes could become a prototype for injured birds. E.H.

JOURNALISTS AT A radio station

southern Romania have to act as scarecrows to chase away birds which sit on the station's aerial and hamper broadcasts every day. Reporters at the private Orion radio station in Ciomputung take turns to climb on the roof to shake and wave at dozens of crows which have turned the aerial into a favorite playground. Broadcasts are jammed whenever the antenna shakes under the weight of the often feeding crows.

THE ENGLISH town of Brackley

was treated to roast chicken - thanks to militant animal-rights activists. The extremist Animal Liberation Front set fire to seven trucks loaded with frozen chickens outside a chicken wholesaler. Several ALF activists have been jailed in recent years for planning or carrying out arson attacks on businesses trading in meat. Police have described the ALF as Britain's second most serious terrorist threat, after militant Irish republican groups.



Five points for peace

There is one simple, iron law in the Middle East: When there is progress in peace negotiations, the forces of moderation and stability have the upper hand. During deadlocks and stagnation, the radical forces who resort to terror and violence gain the advantage.

If we look back at the last 26 years, this law has always had its unerring impact on reality. In February 1971, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made two alternative proposals to move towards peace. When his initiatives were rejected, the Egyptians complained to Henry Kissinger, who responded: "You have to reshuffle your cards." So Sadat did, and the outcome was the Yom Kippur War.

After this war, the peace process started and the forces of stability and moderation strengthened. Prime minister Menachem Begin understood this iron law of Middle East politics and launched the Camp David process and achieved peace with Egypt. In 1987, when Shimon Peres and I negotiated the London Agreement with Jordan's King Hussein there was hope, but when this was rejected by then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, despair among the Palestinians led to the outbreak of the intifada.

I understood then, as I understand today, that politics is a combination of reality and the reflection of reality, as expressed by the spoken and written word, which creates an atmosphere of hope or despair. An atmosphere of hope strengthens those people, forces and processes that work for peace and stability, while an atmosphere of despair causes destabilization and often violence and terror. It is within the power of political leadership to create hope and thus promote stability.

I thus started the Oslo process in January 1993. The Oslo Accords have served Israel tremendously: We made peace with Jordan, we went to Casablanca, Amman and Cairo, ended the Arab boycott, created a relationship of cooperation and negotiation with 13 Arab states, and we spurred an enormous economic boom here, during which our national per capita income rose by over 50% (from \$11,000 to \$17,000) and which led to hun-

YOSSI BEILIN

dreds of millions of dollars in foreign investment here. The world was coming to us. Jewish communities abroad saw Israel again as the cultural, moral and economic center of the Jewish people. Our security improved tremendously because we made the entire world our friends and supporters.

True, hope did not completely

Stagnation and despair are not a historical imperative

destroy the forces of evil and radicalism. Acts of terror caused much suffering and destruction, although the Oslo process we developed brought about growing cooperation between our security forces and those of the Palestinians.

UNDER Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's leadership, hope came to an end and has been replaced by despair. The present stagnation in the peace process and the evident deadlock in negotiations is, for me, terribly and frighteningly familiar.

I have therefore proposed a five-point plan to overcome the present deadlock. The five points are:

1. Both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, will refrain from any unilateral activity that opposes the letter and the spirit of the Oslo Accords.
 2. Both sides will commit themselves to take all possible actions to prevent terror and violence.
 3. The first stage of further redeployment will be implemented immediately, parallel to an agreement to be reached between the two sides on the extension of the second stage of further redeployment, which will be carried out by September 7, 1997, should no final-status agreement be reached by that date.
 4. The final-status negotiations will start immediately and will be carried out at an accelerated pace, aiming to reach their conclusion within several months.
 5. Full security cooperation will be renewed immediately.
- If Prime Minister Netanyahu

wants to show he has the makings of a national leader, he will accept this initiative and ask to convene a summit on the basis of these five points.

If he wants to show he has the makings of a good politician, he will publicly reject the initiative but secretly hold negotiations based on it while slightly changing its details and adding one or two other items, such as the improvement of economic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In fact, I have made it easy for him to accept, either publicly or secretly, my five-point proposal of hope, as I have built a structure through which negotiations can be implemented in various ways. He can decide to make very substantial offers related to point three and ask for certain reservations on point one, or vice versa—whatever seems politically more appropriate to him.

I have also given hope and a tool for diplomatic action to the government of the United States and to Egypt's government. In particular, President Bill Clinton can now demonstrate his leadership and encourage Netanyahu to move towards serious negotiations based on my proposal.

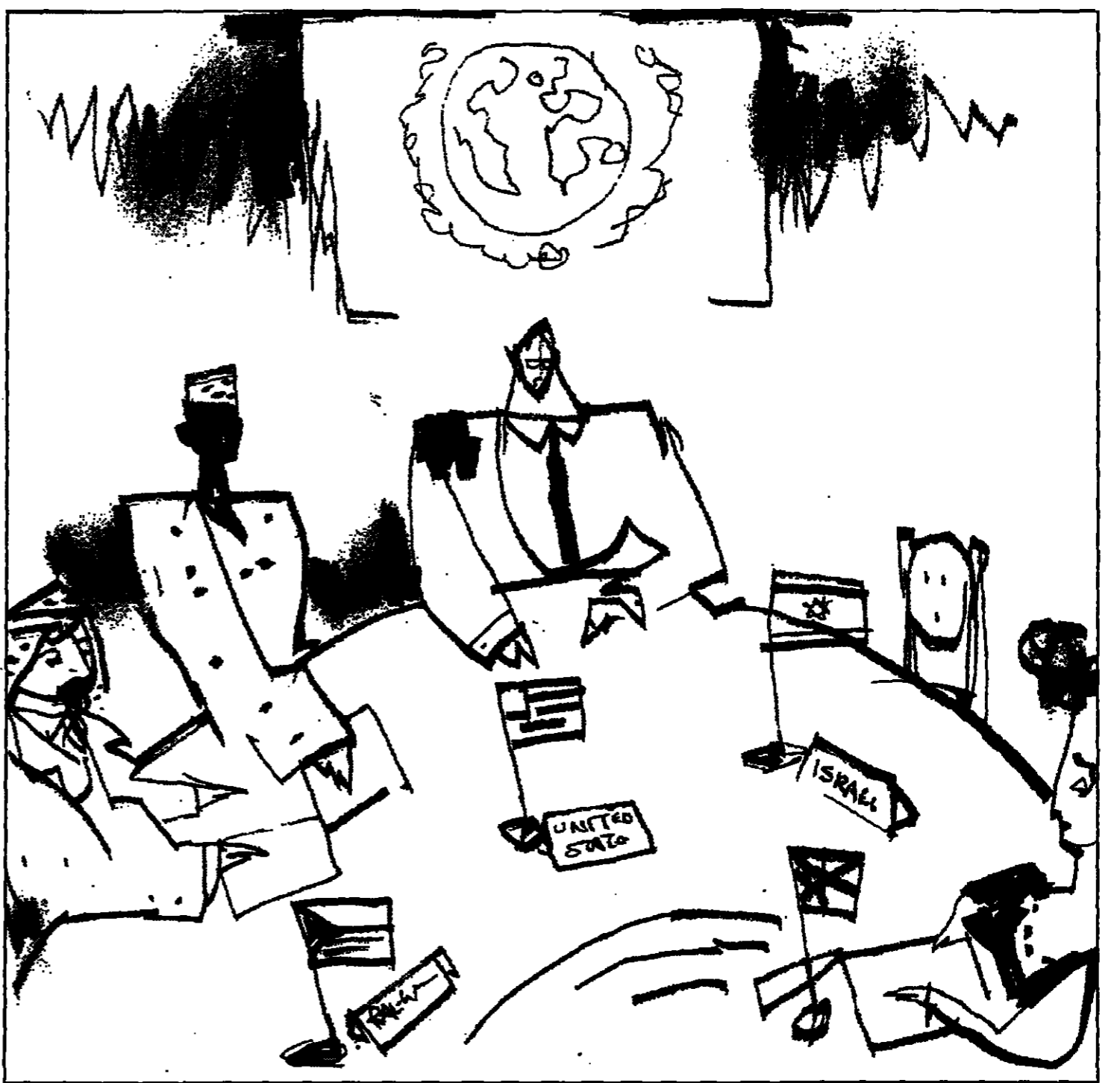
Netanyahu, however, can also choose to reject this initiative. In this case, it is important that the public understand that stagnation and despair are not a historical imperative.

Finally, and most important, is the impact my five-point initiative has on the unity of Jerusalem. The public is learning to understand more and more that the unity of Jerusalem can be best preserved by promoting the peace process, avoiding confrontation over Jerusalem and seeking consensus solutions that will lead, in final-status negotiations, to Palestinian recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital.

The policy of confrontation over Jerusalem, as pursued by the prime minister and Mayor Ehud Olmert when they opened the Western Wall Tunnel exit, which caused the death of over 75 people, does not unite Jerusalem, but reinforces despair, conflict and violence.

The wisdom of political leadership is needed. We only have to grasp at the existing opportunities.

The writer is a Labor MK.



A failure in foreign affairs

DAVID NEWMAN

While last week's anti-Israel vote at the United Nations may not have come as a surprise to some, it certainly served to demonstrate just how much Israel's international popularity has waned during the past year.

True, international support for Israel tends to be fickle but it has rarely reached the low point that we witnessed this past week, with only two other countries, the United States and Micronesia, voting against the Arab-sponsored motion condemning Israel for its settlement policies in Jerusalem.

Given the fact that Israel's international popularity in the wake of the Oslo Accords had reached an all-time high, the recent fall from grace is even more disturbing.

In the space of one short year, the policies of the Netanyahu administration have succeeded in alienating Israel in the international arena to an extent rarely experienced in the past.

While we should not overestimate the importance of the UN, neither should we disregard its growing influence in world affairs.

The UN approved the UNSCOP partition resolution in 1947 which gave birth to the State of Israel, yet in the 1970s it passed the resolution equating Zionism with racism. The increase in the number of sovereign states which are members of the UN makes it unlikely that a resolution approving the establishment of a Jewish state would be adopted today, just as it is equally likely that, when called upon to do so, there will be instant recognition for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But we should not lay all the blame for recent diplomatic failures at the doors of other countries.

It is particularly alarming that in these critical days, Israel remains without an ambassador to the UN. Foreign Minister David Levy and Netanyahu are unable to agree upon a candidate for this important post, and while they continue to play their own internal political games of one-upmanship, it is left to the temporary head of the Israeli delegation, David Peleg—a capable diplomat in an impossible

IT IS therefore particularly surprising that Netanyahu, whose own political rise to stardom was first recognized during the period in which he very capably filled the role of ambassador to the UN, is prepared to neglect this most important of diplomatic posts. He, more than any other Israeli leader, should be aware of the importance attached not simply to the vote, but to the world stage which is

Some of Foreign Minister Levy's recent political appointments, to such important posts as ambassador to the UK and consul general in New York, leave a lot to be desired. Levy's appointments may have impeccable political credentials, but they are clearly unsuitable for the jobs in question.

In the wake of the Bar-On Affair, Netanyahu announced the setting up of a committee, headed by Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharan, to draw up the necessary criteria for making sensitive political appointments.

The idea is to take the decisions out of the hands of the politicians and to ensure that only the best and the most qualified are appointed to such posts.

The same criteria should equally apply to senior diplomatic postings.

In the absence of an appointment to the UN—a major foreign-policy failure—those ministers responsible for this disgraceful set of affairs should be brought to task. It is yet another indication of the failure of the government to manage its affairs in a proper and efficient manner.

The appointment of ambassadors should be removed from the hands of the politicians and returned to the professional diplomats. It would be but a first step in the rejuvenation of Israel's image abroad.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

More than anyone else, Netanyahu should appreciate the importance of an ambassador to the UN

situation—to use whatever limited influence he may have in an attempt to thwart the international assault on Israel.

Representing Israel at the UN requires unique diplomatic skills, as well as a thorough understanding of the complexities of world affairs.

Whatever one feels about his politics, Israel's first ambassador to the UN, Abba Eban, has never been equalled in oratorical or diplomatic skills. His was an act which has proved impossible to follow.

Other prominent ambassadors have included Chaim Herzog, who went on to become Israel's president, and Netanyahu himself.

It is perhaps not surprising that the UN ambassadors who have made the biggest impact have been those whose command of the English language is second to none. English remains the international language of diplomacy, the language understood by more world audiences than any other.

American patience

MARK A. HELLER

At first, the story was that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had asked Foreign Minister David Levy to postpone their meeting scheduled for today because she wanted to extend her visit in Moscow. Then it was reported that the original announcement was incorrect, and that the meeting was always intended to be held in mid-May.

Even if the latter is true, the former symbolizes an important development: The Americans are growing impatient with the Arab-Israeli peace process and are increasingly inclined to focus on other, more important problems. Whether American indifference is a source of comfort or concern depends on one's view of the process and the American role in it.

There are many Israelis, including not a few in the present government, who have always looked at the peace process as a mechanism by which the US drags Israel, kicking and screaming, down one-way street of "give and give."

From their perspective, every discussion about how to revive the process is another potential opportunity for Washington to twist Israeli arms a little more, and they can only welcome any sign that the Americans are losing interest in this exercise.

The other view is that the peace process is something that Israel should pursue for reasons of its own vital national interests, but that US involvement is a necessary supplement to Israeli efforts.

The historical record seems to confirm the latter interpretation. There have been three major breakthroughs in Israel's rela-

tions with its Arab neighbors: with Egypt in 1977, with the Palestinians in 1993, and with Jordan in 1994. All three were the result, not of American pressure, but of direct initiatives by the parties themselves.

But although it was Israelis and Arabs who decided that the peace process served their best interests, problems inevitably arose when the time came to translate this conceptual break-

It's likely to wear thin if we don't break the deadlock in the peace process

through into workable arrangements on the ground, and US involvement was indispensable at critical moments of deadlock—like the present moment in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship.

IN THE past, the US was prepared to invest its time, attention, effort, and political and material capital, because the peace process was not just a humanitarian enterprise, but also a central component of its global strategy. But Cold War considerations have long since ceased to play a major role in US foreign policy, and the American commitment to what has become social work for Arabs and Israelis is now sustainable only if there is clear evidence that the parties themselves view negotiating problems as obstacles to be over-

come rather than as excuses to abandon their own commitments.

That evidence is increasingly hard to find, on both sides, and without it, the American search for a formula to break the current deadlock may well run out of steam.

That would not be such a terrible thing if a comatose peace process could turn into some kind of stable *modus vivendi*. But the more likely outcome is greater tension and violence on the ground, a further deterioration in Israel's relations with the rest of the Arab world, and growing international isolation.

No one denies that there are serious problems with Oslo.

But if Binyamin Netanyahu has a better idea, he has kept it to himself as much since the elections as he did before. The only difference is that candidate Netanyahu talked about "secure peace," and Prime Minister Netanyahu talks about "building Jerusalem." Both are good slogans; neither is a real vision, much less a policy that can transform vision into reality.

If there is such a vision, now is the time to articulate it, to restore some sense of confidence that the peace process has a future, and to give the Americans something to work with.

Otherwise, there is a serious risk, not that Madeleine Albright will threaten David Levy with all kinds of unilateral American actions, but that she will simply sing him the words of that old song, "You're gonna miss me when I'm gone."

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

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WORLD

in brief

Winnipeg residents on flood alert

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Three thousand families and businesses are on alert: They must be ready to flee within 24 hours if the surging Red River crashes through a temporary dike.

Mayor Susan Thompson, along with city and province flood officials, are confident the 40-km dike southwest of the city will hold and that no residents will have to leave.

Status Quo's Rick Parfitt has heart surgery

LONDON (Reuters) — Rick Parfitt of veteran British rock band Status Quo was recovering after undergoing an emergency quadruple heart bypass operation. The 48-year-old guitarist was being treated at London's Wellington Hospital after the four-hour operation.

Communists, rightists mark May Day

LONDON (Reuters) — From waves of nostalgia for the Soviet past in Ukraine to violent outbursts by political extremists in northern Germany and ancient fertility dances in rural England, May Day celebrations took many forms.

Some 500 left-wing demonstrators marched through the city centre of Bucharest, the Romanian capital, demanding free health care, an end to unemployment and the scrapping of recent price rises.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of

KURT BUCHSBAUM

The funeral will take place today,
Friday, May 2, 1997, departing
from the members' Mo'adon at 2 p.m.

The Family and Kibbutz Hazor



BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

Prof. Rabbi Emanuel Rackman and Family

Our deepest condolences on the death of your beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

RUTH RACKMAN

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The Staff of the Student Counselling Center
Bar-Ilan University

Grief-stricken, we announce the sudden death of

LILY WINKELMAN

The funeral will take place in Shiloh, Samaria,
today, May 2, 1997, at 10 a.m.

Her husband, Harold Winkelman, Queens, N.Y.
Her sister, Selma Bachner and family, Upper Montclair, N.J.
Her son, Yisrael Medad and family, Shiloh
Her daughter, Debra Briks and family, Jerusalem

Shiva at the home of Yisrael Medad, Shiloh, Tel. 02-994-2328

On the seventh anniversary of the tragic death
of our beloved

Capt. ILAN KAUFMAN

who fell in the line of duty,

a memorial service will be held
on Monday, May 5, at 4 p.m. at the Savyon Cemetery.

The Family and Friends



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

mourns the passing of

JACK BRIN

Honorary Fellow and staunch friend
of the University, and active member of its
International Board of Governors

The University extends its sincerest condolences
to the family

Alexander Grass Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund
Chairman of the Board President

SEAGRAM ISRAEL

deeply mourns the passing of its Chairman

JACOB BRIN

and extends its condolences to the
family.

We deeply mourn the death of

JACK BRIN

a dear man, deeply cherished

The Jerusalem Report Family

Britain changed during 18 years of Tory rule

News agencies

LONDON — From oil workers in northern Scotland to fishermen in southern England, millions of Britons turned out for yesterday's fateful national election that the opposition Labor Party entered with a commanding lead in opinion polls.

The election was seen as the possible end to 18 years of Conservative government. It proved correct this would give Britain its youngest prime minister of the 20th century, 43-year-old Tony Blair. Prime Minister John Major, 54, still hoped for a second term.

Across Britain, security was tight following a series of bomb hoaxes and small explosions by the IRA aimed at disrupting the 7-week campaign.

Police scoured the country's 45,000 polling centers before voting started at 7 a.m. Voters had their bags searched.

During the Tories' 18 years, Britain was a nation in the throes of change.

Margaret Thatcher, prime minister from 1979 to 1990, talked of "rolling back the frontiers of the state."

Conservative governments sold British Steel, British Airways, the telephone system, the water, electric and gas companies, the coal mines, the railroads — a \$100 billion sale that put more than four dozen businesses in private hands. Major's government pledged to sell the London subway system.

Conservative governments

increased power at the center, most dramatically in London, where Thatcher abolished the Labor-controlled Greater London Council.

Thatcher crushed the power of labor unions. She forced secret pre-strike ballots, outlawed mass picketing and sympathy strikes, and made unions liable to be sued by employers. In 1984-85, she won a key confrontation, breaking a 51-week strike, the longest and most violent in British history, by the National Union of Mineworkers.

The rich have gotten substantially richer, and the poor are still poor, according to the independent Institute of Fiscal Studies. Between 1979 and 1994 the wealthiest 10 percent of Britons enjoyed a 60 percent increase in net income; middle incomes grew by about one-third, and the poorest 10 percent were just one percent better off.

Since the Conservatives won their second election in 1983 against a Labor party that had lurched far to the left, the main opposition party has shifted back to the center.

Blair, heading what he calls New Labor, has embraced Tory policies on privatization and curbing union power, and expressed admiration for Thatcher. The reshaping of Labor and blurring of divisions between the two big British parties is, some analysts argue, the most significant legacy of the Thatcher era.



US Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson greets Zairians on the streets of Kinshasa yesterday. Richardson has helped arrange talks between Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel leader Laurent Kabila. (AP)

Rebels advance amid start of Zaire talks

KINSHASA (Reuters) — President

Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and rebel leader Laurent Kabila prepared yesterday for face-to-face talks at sea with South Africa's Nelson Mandela amid confusion over the timing of the meeting.

Mobutu's camp said the talks would focus on a peaceful transition with elections open to all, Kabila's camp insisted that the veteran strongman must stand down after

more than three decades in power.

But as the civil war rivals and mediators variously announced that the talks would start today, tomorrow and Sunday, the rebel advance on the capital Kinshasa continued.

"The talks will just be about Mobutu and what we do with him. Our uncompromising demand is that he leaves power and we shall look after him," Kabila said before leaving his Lubumbashi headquarters for

talks in neighboring countries.

"There can be no ceasefire or indeed elections in this country until Mobutu and all he represents is removed and thrown away," Kabila added.

There was no indication Mobutu, who seized power in 1965 but is sick with cancer, was ready to step down — although rebel "foreign minister" Bizima Karaha said the veteran president had agreed to discuss his departure.

"We are happy that Mobutu has agreed to come and negotiate one and only one thing: his departure from power," Karaha said.

US envoy Bill Richardson, who helped persuade Mobutu and Kabila to meet, told reporters in Kinshasa there were no preconditions for the talks.

Mandela said through a spokesman that he would chair the face-to-face talks today aboard a South African naval vessel in international waters off the coast of West Africa.

Mobutu's son Nzanga said the talks had been postponed until tomorrow. Karaha said Kabila could only attend on Sunday.

"I think following that meeting there will be other negotiations that will bring I hope a peaceful transition that will lead to elections," Nzanga Mobutu told BBC radio.

Kabila's rebels, who took up arms in October, say they expect to take the capital over the next 10 to 15 days. They now control over a half of the sprawling Central African nation — including all its main cities outside the capital.

To Mina, Ariella and family

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend

JACOB A. BRIN

He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are
with you during this difficult time.

Charles and Andrea Bronfman

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

JACOB (JACK) BRIN

The funeral will take place today, Friday, May 2, 1997
at the Savyon Cemetery, at 3 p.m.

His wife, Mina Brin

His daughter and son-in-law, Ariela and Danny Benyamini

His grandchildren, Micky and Yonathan Benyamini

Please refrain from condolence visits.

To Mina, Ariella, Danny and the children

Joining you in your hour of sorrow and grief upon the death of our dear friend

JACOB A. BRIN

A man of many virtues, an admired colleague, whose many achievements
will not be forgotten

Charles and Andrea Bronfman

Leo and Sandra Kolber

Jonathan and Irit Kolber

Danny and Gina Biran

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Bar-On Affair: Not a closed case

Immediately after the dramatic press conference on April 20, when Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel presented their decisions on the Bar-On Affair, Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed the nation and said the lessons of the affair were learned, and the whole matter is now behind him.

There are six petitions to the High Court and pressure for a commission of inquiry. Herb Keinon looks at whether any of these steps will make a difference

Just as the affair itself spawned a relative cottage industry of sub-affairs and mini-scandals, so too have the results of the investigation engendered any number of political and legal maneuvers that are keeping the issue very much in the public eye. Just as the affair thrust relatively unknown personalities onto the center stage, such as Roni Bar-On himself and Netanyahu lawyer Yitzhak Weinroth, so too is the fallout from the attorney-general's decision making temporary celebrities out of people like obscure Shas MK Yitzhak Cohen.

The most significant move to challenge the decision not to indict Netanyahu or Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi will come in 12 days. At that time a five-judge High Court of Justice panel - comprised of Shlomo Levin, Eliezer Goldberg, Theodor Or, Yitzhak Zamir and Dalia Dorner - is scheduled to hear five petitions on the matter. Aharon Barak, the president of the court, has disqualified himself from the panel because he was one of some 60 people questioned by the police about the affair.

Three separate petitions, one filed by Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Yona Yahav, another by Labor MK Ophir Pines, and a third by Meretz MK Yossi Sarid, are all calling on the court to force an indictment of all the "heroes" in the story, including Netanyahu, Hanegbi, Deri and Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime

Minister's Office. A fourth petition, filed by the Movement for Quality Government, is calling for Hanegbi to be removed from office; while a fifth, filed by Jerusalem lawyer Yehid Ron-El and school principal Ami Katz, is calling on the court to order a state commission of inquiry into the whole Bar-On Affair. Much has been written and broadcast over the last 12 days about the likelihood of the court accepting the petitions to

responsible for the bank-share scandal of the early 1980s, or National Religious Party MK Avner Shaki. But while these cases were closed by the attorney-general because of "lack of public interest," Keshet pointed out, Rubinstein's decisions are based on a lack of evidence. Another reason the court is unlikely to overturn the attorney-general, said Bar-Ilan University political science professor Giora Goldberg, is because the court - despite its

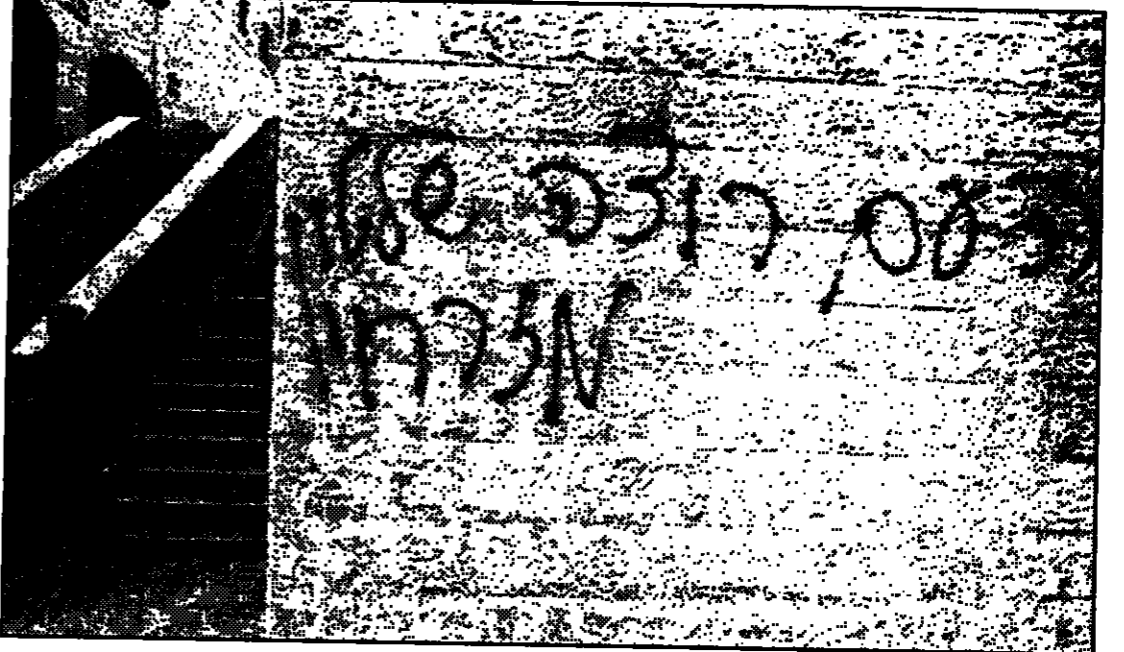
been charged with a criminal offense is unprecedented. And this is exactly what the Movement for Quality Government is trying to get the court to do, by petitioning it to remove Hanegbi from the Justice Ministry. The court barred Aryeh Deri and Raphael Pinhasi from holding ministerial positions, but that was only after they were indicted.

Keshet, the movement's legal adviser, said that unlike the MKs from the opposition filing for an indictment against Hanegbi and Netanyahu, and who are in effect challenging the attorney-general's report, her movement is not arguing with the findings. Rather, this petition is saying that as a result of what is in the report, Hanegbi is no longer fit to serve atop the country's legal pyramid.

The reason why a similar petition has not been filed against Netanyahu, Keshet said, is because he was elected, not appointed, and the will of the people cannot be so easily overturned. The same cannot be said of a man who was appointed to his job.

Menahem Hofnung, a Hebrew University political science lecturer whose specialty is constitutional politics, is not among those who feel that the petitions to indict are without any chance of success, though he too agrees that the chances are slim. But what may have great weight with the court, he said, is the minority opinion of three senior members in the Attorney-General's Office who recommended indicting all four key players in the affair. This opinion, Hofnung said, could be "very, very significant" to the court.

Hofnung said that the petition calling for the appointment of a state commission of inquiry had no chance at all of succeeding. "The court has never become involved in commissions of



Closing ranks (upper left): Aryeh Deri confers with Shas officials; Lobbying for a state commission of inquiry at a protest tent near the Knesset (upper right); Jerusalem graffiti: 'The people want Oriental rule.'

"What may have great weight with the court is the minority opinion of three senior members in the attorney general's office who recommended indicting all four key players in the affair."

indict Netanyahu and Hanegbi, with the prevailing opinion that the court is unlikely to do so. For the court to reverse Rubinstein's decision, it would have to find that it was "unreasonable" for him not to indict the three others, something unlikely, said Jasmin Keshet, legal adviser for the Movement for Quality Government, considering the detailed report written by the attorney-general and the state attorney on the matter.

There are precedents when the court has criticized a decision not to indict, most notably the decision not to indict those

reputation for activism - "recognizes its boundaries." "The justices are wise," Goldberg said. "They realize the kind of pressure a decision like that would mean." He said the strength of the court derives from its legitimacy in the eyes of the public. A decision on this matter would erode its standing in the eyes of many, Goldberg said, something the court has an interest in avoiding.

WHILE THE court has overturned an attorney-general's decision not to indict, a decision by the court forcing the ouster of a minister who has not

inquiry," he said, adding that this was not because it lacked the opportunity. State commissions of inquiry, such as the two Shamgar commissions - the first that investigated the massacre at the Machpela Cave, and the other that investigated the Rabin assassination - are generally appointed by the government.

There are times, such as the circumstances surrounding the appointment of the Bejski Committee that investigated the bank-shares scandal, when the Knesset's State Comptroller's committee can set up such a commission of inquiry, but only after a report has been submitted by the comptroller. This is a lengthy process, and a rare one.

ANOTHER WAY to bring about a commission of inquiry is public pressure - the method used successfully to force appointment of the Kahan Commission that investigated the Sabra and Shatilla massacres in 1982, and the Agranat Commission that investigated the military and intelligence lack of preparedness for the Yom Kippur War. A similar drive is under way now.

Michael Dak, spokesman for the public committee organizing the drive to appoint a commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair, said that just because the attorney-general found insuffi-

cient evidence to indict Netanyahu, does not mean that the prime minister should be let off the hook. "The matter is not over," he said.

Dak, who said nearly 60,000 people have signed the petition calling for establishment of the commission of inquiry, does not view such a commission as a criticism of the attorney-general. "The attorney general investigated whether there was enough evidence to indict," he said, "a commission of inquiry can look into the moral and ethical aspects of the case." That Netanyahu was not indicted, Dak said, does not mean that the "stench from the affair has gone away."

Bar-Ilan University political scientist Goldberg doesn't think this method of setting up a commission of inquiry has much more chance of succeeding than does the court method.

"You don't have the same public pressure that you had with Sabra and Shatilla," he said. "This [Bar-On] has been investigated for three months. People know, more or less, what happened. The same was not true of Sabra and Shatilla. Then people really didn't know what happened."

IF, INDEED, the petition for the commission of inquiry fails, it will not be the first such petition to fall by the wayside as a

result of the Bar-On Affair. The unparalleled move by Shas to get MKs to sign a petition calling on the attorney-general to reconsider his decision to indict Deri was withdrawn before anyone actually signed.

The reason, Shas officially said, was that Deri wants to wait and see how the High Court rules on the affair before employing such a tactic. The real reason, opined the Hebrew University's Hofnung, was because the petition, initiated and loudly trumpeted by Shas MK Yitzhak Cohen, did not generate enough support.

Hofnung, criticizing the initiative, said that its equivalent would be "judges signing a petition calling on the Knesset to act on a specific matter. Does that sound reasonable to you?"

Finance Minister Dan Meridor had even harsher words for the aborted initiative. "I don't think it is seemly for Knesset members to be involved in this," he told Israel Radio. "I think it will only cause a greater lack of the public's faith that the attorney-general makes decisions without pressure from politicians. If people, after everything that has happened [in the Bar-On Affair], continue along the same path and politicians are trying to influence who is brought to court, then they haven't learned anything."

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Israel

Holding down the UN fort

The government's failure to appoint an ambassador to the UN has left David Peleg manning the post. Marilyn Henry looks at how he has fared in what has been a brutal year for Israel at the UN

Since the day he took over the question has been: Who will replace him? David Peleg is the chargé d'affaires at the Israeli Mission to the UN. A career diplomat since 1965, Peleg has been standing in as ambassador since Gad Ya'acobi resigned a year ago — which gives Peleg the oxymoronic title of "acting permanent representative" to the UN.

There have been occasional bursts of speculation about who will succeed Ya'acobi, but Peleg's name is not on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's shortlist. Instead, the usual candidates floated before Netanyahu's Bar-On Affair were Yossi Olmert and David Bar-Ilan.

Meanwhile, Peleg is holding down the fort in what has been a brutal year at the UN — one that is reminiscent of Israel's pariah days at the international organization. He has withstood dozens of speeches at the UN challenging Israel's opening of the second entrance to the Hasmonean tunnel, the demolition of a youth center in the Moslem Quarter, and possible construction at Ras el-Amud.

And with the UN's weeks-long uproar over Israel's decision to build on Har Homa, it seemed that Peleg might claim the endurance record for "most sessions attended of Israeli-hashing in a variety of languages in a single month." Within a two-week period in March, he had presented Israel's case in two Security Council debates and one General Assembly session on Har Homa.

Israel emerged relatively unscathed in the council, thanks to two American vetoes of harsh resolutions.

That was not the case in the General Assembly, where an emergency special session — the first since 1982 — voted on April 25 to condemn Israel for the Har Homa building project and demanded an immediate halt to

the construction of the "new settlement in Jebel Abu Ghneim." "It has not been easy here," said Deputy US Ambassador to the UN Edward Gnehm. "Many people, like myself, were enjoying a new atmosphere or mood toward Israel up until last year..."

"At just about the time that Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi left, things did change in the way some delegations dealt with the Israeli Mission," he said, with an oblique reference to Netanyahu's victory in the election. "It was a much more difficult environment for the Israeli Mission to operate in and David has done it very well."

Ya'acobi, who left the Israeli

"I'm not going to be a prophet of doom. We don't feel at all besieged."

Mission for the Israel Electric Corporation last April 30, was at the helm during the Rabin years, when dozens of nations rushed to embrace Israel after the signing of the Oslo accords. Peleg was the caretaker during the transition from the Labor government to the Likud, where there was — at best — skepticism about the new Netanyahu government's commitment to the accords. Fierce hostilities in Lebanon only heightened the tension.

Peleg's year has been bracketed by destruction and building, by Kafr Kana and Har Homa. On April 18, 1996, the Israeli UN delegation, along with former cabinet minister Yossi Beilin, was at a breakfast briefing for diplomats. The dry issue of the day was public administration.

Kofi Annan — now the secretary general, but then in charge of UN peacekeeping — was also there. "One of his assistants

came to him, pale, with a piece of paper, that we still keep, saying that this [incident] had happened," Peleg recalled.

More than 100 refugees died in the Israeli shelling of the UNIFIL position at Kafr Kana during Operation Grapes of Wrath. Israel insisted that it did not know refugees were at the UNIFIL base, and that Hizbullah had taken advantage of the Fijian peacekeepers, placing its mortar and Katyusha launcher close to the camp.

The Israeli explanations fell on deaf ears. Just before his departure, Ya'acobi sat through a three-day UN debate on Kafr Kana. When it was over, the General Assembly voted 64-2 in favor of a resolution that condemned Israel's attacks on the Lebanese civilian population and called for Israel to pay reparations.

Israel said the assembly had been one-sided by failing to take into account Hizbullah's activities, and Peleg insinuated at the time that the UN bore responsibility for the attack. Since the beginning of Operation Grapes of Wrath, until Kafr Kana, Israel had reported to the UN 19 times of the cases in which Hizbullah shelled from less than 200 meters from a UNIFIL position.

"Although during the operation, there were 34 cases," he said. "And the question is, why didn't the UN do anything? Problems in the General Assembly were compounded when the military adviser of then-secretary general Boutros-Ghali, Major General Frank van Kappen of the Netherlands, issued a scathing report on the Israeli shelling, suggesting that it was not an accident.

The report was written, with its conclusions drawn, while Israel was scrambling to determine what had happened.

"We regretted the incident and we rejected their position that it was done deliberately," Peleg said in an interview at the UN on the eve of the Kafr Kana anniversary. But, he said, Israel was a victim of both its cooperation and the IDF's reputation. "We fell victim to our zeal to cooperate and to share informa-



tion," he said. Israeli military authorities could have waited until the investigation was complete before sharing information with van Kappen. "But they wanted to share with him everything they had at the time. Some of it was not confirmed, and afterward it became clear that some of it was not accurate and was not complete."

The Dutch general also had inflated ideas about the IDF, Peleg said.

"He thought that the Israeli army was close to perfection, one of the best armies in the world," Peleg said. "He said, 'The mistakes that you said happened — I can't believe such mistakes happen in such a great army.' So again we fell victim to the perception that the Israeli army is close to perfect."

JUST BEFORE the opening of the 51st session of the General Assembly last fall, Peleg acknowledged that Netanyahu's government would have different emphases, but he said, "I'm not going to be a prophet of doom." Israel had made progress in the UN, he said at the time, adding: "We don't feel at all besieged." But by the end of the session, he had blocked what he called the Palestinian UN observer's "innovations" — which were attempts to get the UN to endorse Palestinian state-

hood and to refer to Israeli settlements as "colonial."

And by the end of Peleg's year, he had accused the Palestinians of inciting violence and of "dysfunctional behavior" at the UN, had implied that the Europeans were biased by supporting resolutions that assailed Israel over construction at Har Homa, and was unable to block a special emergency session of the UN — again on Har Homa.

Nonetheless, Peleg said, "In spite of the criticism of the issues like Har Homa, I think that none of our relations [at the

On the other long-standing resolutions, on Jerusalem and the Golan, that surface each year as part of the debate on the "question of Palestine," Israel did not gain any ground. Then again, it had little to lose. Israel consistently is the only state to vote against the annual Jerusalem resolution, while Israel and the US routinely are the only opponents of the Golan resolution.

The recent emergency session was requested by Qatar on March 31 to protest Har Homa, after the US had twice vetoed

Australia, Canada and Germany. He also said that many states were reluctant to have a special session.

A special session required 93 votes, a majority of the 185 members of the UN.

The proof of UN fatigue with the issue, Peleg said, was that it took almost four weeks to get enough votes to convene the session. How much of an emergency could Har Homa be, he asked, if it took so long for UN delegations to agree, in a secret ballot, to a special session about it?

Nonetheless, he conceded, once the session was convened, even the "fatigued" states voted against Israel.

Peleg has "done the best he can do in preserving relations while defending his government's position," Gnehm, of the US Mission, said in an interview. "He is persistent, but in a modest sort of way. No one could accuse him of arrogance." He also has a good relationship with Bill Richardson, who recently replaced Madeleine Albright, now secretary of state, as the US ambassador to the UN. Their ties go back to the days when Peleg worked at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, where Richardson was a congressman from New Mexico.

Richardson is a Peleg booster. On the eve of presenting his credentials to Annan, Richardson met with Netanyahu and was delighted to see Peleg with the prime minister, Gnehm recalled. "Richardson turned to Mr. Netanyahu and said, 'You should make this man your representative.'"

Although he would clearly relish the permanent post at the UN, which once was held by Netanyahu, Peleg refused to take the bait and to promote himself during a recent interview. "I came as deputy. I didn't plan to be [ambassador] for a year," he said. "Now I am waiting to see who will be appointed."

"How much of an emergency could Har Homa be if it took four weeks for UN delegations to agree, in a secret ballot, to hold a special session about it?"

UN] have been damaged in the last year." The harsh rhetoric, in fact, was not reflected in the traditional annual votes on the Middle East. In the 1995 General Assembly session, 148 states voted in favor of a resolution supporting the peace process, while four were opposed. In this year's session, the vote was 159-3.

Security Council resolutions that would have condemned the project. The UN voted 134-3, with 11 abstentions, to condemn Israel for Har Homa.

Israel, the US and Micronesia opposed the resolution, which also called for the "cessation of all forms of assistance and support for illegal Israeli activities" in the "occupied Palestinian territory." Many delegations want Israel to suspend Har Homa, "but they see it is not going to happen," Peleg said in an interview after the vote.

Although the votes of the assembly are not binding, they indicate the persistent preference of the international community to remain involved in Israeli-Palestinian affairs, even though the US has firmly stated that disputes should be resolved by the two sides.

Peleg, however, insisted after the vote that Israel was not besieged. He was measuring success by the countries who had abstained, which included

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A growing alliance

Turhan Tayan is prodding his Islamic-led government to forge tighter ties with Israel. Steve Rodan met the Turkish defense minister during his visit here this week

Turhan Tayan enters the hangar at Israel Aircraft Industries, where the first Turkish airforce F-4 is being upgraded. The Turkish defense minister gathers several of his Israeli hosts for a group shot in front of the aging yellow warplane. Then, he bounds up the stairs for more photographs next to the Turkish insignia on the tail of the jet.

Cops, a photographer fails to get the shot. No problem. Tayan scoots up the stairs again for a pose. For good measure, he walks to the cockpit and preens for more shots.

When he descends, he returns to the handful of Turkish journalists who have interviewed him at least four times in the previous 30 minutes. The Israeli defense executives and officials, most of whom are hardly press-shy, look amazed. "My goodness, this man never stops," one Israeli executive says. "At this rate, we'll never get out of here."

The 54-year-old Tayan is an anomaly in Turkish politics. He is a secular minister in Turkey's first Islamist-led government. He is a civilian, a former journalist and attorney, who formally oversees Turkey's huge military establishment. And, for Israel, this week's visit was the most symbolic gesture of the growing relations between Ankara and Jerusalem.

"We are two countries in the region ruled by democracy," Tayan says. "Turkey attaches a specific importance to its friendship with Israel. The relationship between our countries is a process. We can't stand at one

point. We have to go further." Since February 1996, Israel and Turkey have signed three major accords that officials in both countries privately acknowledge have resulted in a strategic relationship. The first agreement is for free trade, without customs or duties, between the two countries. The second is for defense-industry cooperation, which led to the signing of a \$650 million contract for the IAI upgrade of 54

"Both countries have complaints about international terrorism. It is natural that we exchange views and ways to cooperate."

F-4 Turkish airforce warplanes. The two countries are also discussing the Israeli sale of unmanned air vehicles and early-warning aircraft to Turkey.

The third agreement is the most nebulous. This is for military cooperation and training between Israel and Turkey. Both Turkish and Israeli sources say it involves a wide range of activities including sharing intelligence, counterterrorism and a strategic dialogue to discuss and

coordinate positions on regional threats in the region.

Tayan does not play down the importance of the agreements, but he stresses that they are not meant to be against any other country, such as Syria or Iran.

"We do not have a strategic agreement [with Israel]," Tayan says. "Turkey doesn't make agreements against or for any third country. Here, there are common democracies. Both countries have complaints about international terrorism. It is natural that we exchange views and ways to cooperate in this aspect."

Such an exchange begins next week, when Israel and Turkey convene their semiannual strategic dialogue. This time, however, the US will be a participant — a move that officials in all three countries acknowledge marks the importance Washington attaches to the defense relationship between Ankara and Jerusalem.

The Israeli delegation will be led by Defense Ministry senior adviser David Ivry. The Turks will be headed by Gen. Cevik Bir, deputy chief of the Turkish General Staff.

An unnamed senior representative of the US Army will represent Washington.

"This is where the real issues of the relationship will be discussed," a Turkish defense source says.

Bir is regarded as the most prominent figure in the Turkish military. He is solidly pro-Western, a fervent advocate of ties with Israel and an officer whose mission has been to preserve Turkey's secular democra-



Visiting Turkish Defense Minister Turhan Tayan reviews an honor guard in Tel Aviv: 'We are two countries in the region ruled by democracy.' (AP)

cy from the efforts of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Sources involved in the strategic dialogue say the talks will deal with the immediate and the mid-term. The immediate concerns are wrapping up the details of a US-Israeli-Turkish sea exercise in the Mediterranean planned for the next few weeks.

At first, Israel and Turkey had planned to exercise alone, but sources say Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai pressed for US participation to highlight the importance of the emerging alliance.

"I certainly expect," Mordechai says, "that the US, as a superpower, will be an anchor and adopt, in a more tangible way, the relations between the states of the region, between Israel and Turkey, with joint and combined maneuvers with the main goal of this being to strengthen Turkey, Israel and the US."

The longer-term goal of the talks is to discuss strategy toward what the countries regard as the emerging threats in the Middle East.

For several years, defining those threats has been a source of dispute between both the US and Israel, as well as Israel and Turkey.

Take Iran. For the last four years, Israel has been pressing for a campaign to stop Teheran's unconventional weapons program, particularly its drive to obtain nuclear weapons. Defense sources say the US generally played down Iran's ability to realize these ambitions and dismissed the prospect of an Iranian nuclear bomb for at least the next decade.

Turkey didn't share Israel's alarm either. Like the US, Ankara acknowledged Iran's ambitions but dismissed Teheran's technological capabilities. At the same time, with the rise of Erbakan's pro-Islamist government, Turkey appeared to move closer to Teheran.

In August 1996, Erbakan signed a \$23 billion gas supply agreement with Iran.

Two months later, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani

visited Ankara, where he and Erbakan discussed defense cooperation. They agreed on a joint Turkish-Iranian arms-production program in which Ankara agreed to purchase 145 attack helicopters and up to 1,000 tanks by the year 2000. Quietly, the Turkish military dismissed the agreement, saying it would not implement it. But Erbakan countered by moving a group of officials from the Undersecretariat for Defense Industries to his own office.

But Israeli diplomatic sources

say Turkey began changing its tune over the last few months. Today, the Turkish government and military take Teheran seriously and regard it as a major threat to Turkey's stability. For the military, the change of heart came soon after the Rafsanjani visit, when the Turkish military found evidence of Iranian involvement in fundamentalist unrest in Ankara and other major cities.

Moreover, over the past three months, the Turkish government, including Erbakan himself, was convinced that Iran is now capable of realizing its ambitions. The turning point came in Israeli intelligence reports, relayed to Ankara and Washington, of significant Russian aid in both Teheran's nuclear program and its development of medium-range ballistic missiles that can strike both Israel and any part of Turkey.

At the same time, the Russian technology has been available for sharing with Iran's ally, Syria, in its own missile and unconventional weapons program.

"The Russian factor alarmed

friendly meeting. "It didn't turn Erbakan into a lover of Zion," one diplomat says. "But it broke a barrier and he signaled to both his government and other states that Israel is no longer taboo."

Turkey also has its concerns that only recently are being shared by Israel. The main one is the danger of Syrian-sponsored terrorism, particularly of the Kurdish PKK.

During the government of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, Israeli officials played down Syrian-sponsored terrorism in an effort to advance the peace talks with Damascus.

They also did not want to be seen as taking a position against the Kurds, Israel's longtime ally in northern Iraq.

The change came with the gov-

ernment of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu, diplomatic sources say, did not feel a need to paper over Syrian support of terrorism. Moreover, the sources say, he stressed a need for a joint battle against terrorism and the isolation of states that sponsor such groups as the PKK.

Today, Israeli diplomatic sources say, Netanyahu's government is willing to discuss a joint approach to Syrian-sponsored terrorism, including that of the PKK. But, they stress, this does not mean a significant change in policy.

"We are not talking about hurting the Kurds," a source says. "We are talking more about dealing with the host of groups that Syria supports." In the background to the Turkish-Israeli-US alliance is the pro-Islamic government of Erbakan. Relations between the Turkish military and Erbakan have been getting worse in recent weeks as the powerful generals have come just short of twisting the prime minister's arm to prevent creeping Islamization in public life.

Tayan, a member of the secular True Path Party, stressed that the political tensions in Ankara have nothing to do with Turkey's relations with Israel. At the same time, he appears to support the military's role in preserving secularism in Turkey from Erbakan.

"The Turkish armed forces do not have any special requests," he says. "They don't want anything other than what is written in the constitution. Among their duties is to preserve the democratic secular state of law."

"The coalition is not the ideal system. It is a way of administration when you have to establish a coalition. As it is in Israel, the coalition comes and goes."

Since February 1996, Israel and Turkey have signed three major accords that officials in both countries privately acknowledge have resulted in a strategic relationship.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (right) greets his Turkish counterpart, Tayan is an anomaly in Turkish politics — a secular minister in the country's first Islamic-led government. (AP)

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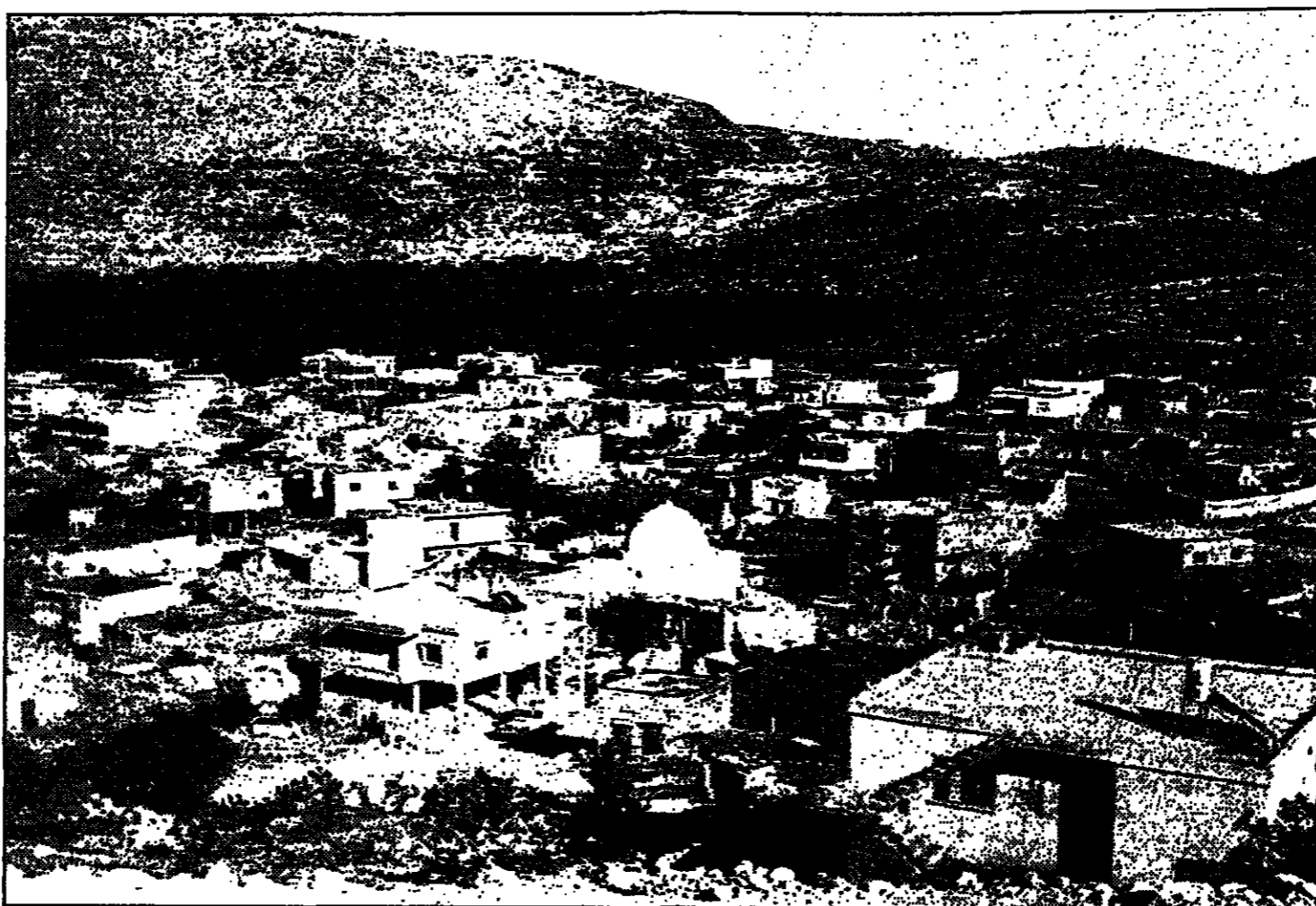
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A bloody week in a Galilee village

Israeli Arab leaders are trying to play down tensions between Moslems and Christians, following a violent clash this week, David Rudge reports



A pastoral Galilee village scene belies tensions between Moslem and Christian families. (David Rubinger)

Violent clashes this week between two families in Turan village in Lower Galilee have raised the specter of Moslem-Christian strife in the Arab community.

Village leaders in Turan maintain that the bloody, week-long feuds, in which a Christian resident was killed and three Moslems seriously injured, are not based on religious differences, but were sparked by a dispute between family clans.

Nevertheless, Dr. Elie Rekhess believes that there are signs of a growing rift between Moslems and Christians.

Israeli Arab leaders have taken pains to play down even hints of division among religious lines in their ranks, according to Rekhess, an expert on Israeli Arabs at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center.

"Generally speaking, Moslem-Christian relationships in the Israeli Arab community have in the past been characterized by peace and quiet," says Rekhess. "In recent years, however, tensions have occasionally arisen, especially during Moslem and Christian holidays, such as Id al-Fitr [at the end of the month-long Ramadan fast], Id al-Adha [the Feast of the Sacrifice] and at Christmas and Easter."

This growing tension, which can sometimes be exacerbated by clan disputes or squabbles, is partly related to the expansion of the Islamic Movement within the Arab community in Israel. Rekhess notes,

Rekhess maintains that the Islamic Movement's slogans, such as "Islam is the Truth" and "Islam is the Solution," have irritated certain sectors of the Christian community.

"Islamic leaders try to minimize religious differences and continue to present the Islamic Movement as an all-Arab entity.

"Some Christian leaders are concerned about the changing winds, although nobody is prepared to talk about this publicly," says Rekhess.

Arab leaders too, in their public announcements, have vehemently rejected any indications of a Moslem-Christian rift, although some cracks have been appearing, even in places like Nazareth and Kafir Yasif, according to Rekhess.

According to Turan local council chairman Nagi Nessar, the riots that have broken the peace and normally harmonious relations between residents of the village, located on the Nazareth-Tiberias road, are the outcome of what he describes as juvenile hooliganism.

Nevertheless, a continuation of the fighting, which has been primarily between members of the Moslem Dahleh and Christian Khouri families, could have far-reaching ramifications for Turan's 9,000 inhabitants - 80 percent of whom are Moslems and the remainder, Greek Orthodox Christians.

Nessar says the trouble began when "a handful of teenagers from the Dahleh family caused a distur-

bance in the grounds of the church on the eve of a Christian holiday."

A few days later, some young men from the Khouri family decided to retaliate and attacked members of the other family. "There was a fight, resulting in three young people from the Dahleh family being seriously injured," says Nessar.

Police were first notified of the problem on Sunday when they received a complaint that stones had been thrown at the church compound.

The following night, the fighting erupted in earnest when three members of the Dahleh family were stabbed. Two are still in serious condition in the Tiberias area's

Poriya Hospital.

There was further rioting on Tuesday night, when a police officer was also injured. On Wednesday night, a man was stabbed while returning home from the church. He later died of his injuries.

The local council has held several emergency meetings, following

consultations with Christian and Moslem dignitaries, and a sulha (reconciliation) committee has been established to try to defuse the situation.

The meeting of the sulha committee was also attended by senior police officers, headed by Northern District chief Cmdr. Alec Ron and Ha'amakim District chief Cmdr.

Avi Tiller, to show police concern over the situation in the village.

"This is the first time something like this has happened in the history of the village. We have always had good and harmonious relations, but now it has happened here," Nessar notes.

"What's important to stress, however, is that this is not an ethnic or religious dispute but one between two family clans," he insists.

Emil Sa'ad, a Christian resident of the village, was equally shocked by the disturbances which have rocked the peace of the village.

"This is not very pleasant. This is not the stereotype of our village - not of Moslems nor Christians. We are used to visiting one another and we pay our mutual respects, particularly during holidays," says Sa'ad, 52.

"Anybody entering the village cannot tell the difference between Christians and Moslems. There has never been a case that I can recall of any dispute between Moslems and Christians in the village. I don't think this was the case this time, but rather something between youngsters and families."

"For all of us in the village, it's a black day. It's like a person going out in their best suit and it rains, dirty, muddy rain.

"But like the weather we hope and believe that this will pass and everything will return to normal," says Sa'ad.

Whether this is the case, or whether underlying religious differences may have been a motivating factor in the violence, Rekhess is certain that any suggestions regarding the possibility of the latter aspect will be played down by the Arab leadership.

"Whatever the causes behind what has happened in Turan, it is clear that Israeli Arab leaders will make strenuous efforts to try to preserve the image of unity," Rekhess notes.

On ethics, lies and journalism

Eight years as publisher of *The Jerusalem Post* showed me the dark side of Israel's journalistic standards.

The Jerusalem Post I am leaving following eight years as its president and publisher is without doubt a different newspaper than it was in 1989. Some of its readers still criticize it for leaning too much to the right while others complain that the opposite is true; some complain that religious matters are not given enough space while others complain that our coverage of secular Israel is insufficient.

But one thing most of these comments have in common, whether they come from readers or from professional media personalities, is their praise for the high standard of journalism at the *Post*.

Many articles have been written and extensive attention given to the economic turnaround the new management achieved in an unprecedentedly short time and which, in fact, saved the paper from a total economic collapse, similar to that which struck other Histadrut-owned newspapers (*Davar*, *Al Hamishmar*) just a few years later.

Little has been said about the most significant change the *Post* has gone through - that is, leaving political stance aside for a moment - the adoption of clean and pluralistic journalism. We have changed the habit of allowing reporters to insert their political views in their

news reports and we have made room for the full range of legitimate political views to be expressed on our Op-ed pages.

A newspaper, any newspaper, has the full right to be biased or "yellow," to be cheap and light or to be heavy and serious. The only judge whose verdict counts is its readership. The readers show their satisfaction or dissatisfaction at the newsstand or when it's time to renew their subscription. Defining its potential readership and catering to its needs are the key elements in that issue and, therefore, the ultimate duty of the paper's management.

Yet, the *Post* is unique in this respect too. Being the only English-language daily newspaper published in Israel it has become the prime source of information to many English-speaking Israelis, diplomats, statesmen, tourists and most of all to Jews who live across the ocean. This must affect its management's decisions to a certain degree.

The paper's political stance, reflected in its editorials, can never satisfy all of its readers. At times, not even the majority. But when the editors start believing that theirs is the only legitimate political belief and others do not have the right to have theirs printed, that is when the paper starts to lose ground and credibility.

Erwin Frenkel, the *Post's* editor -

Yehuda Levy, who this week steps down as *'Post'* publisher, looks back at his time at the paper

whose resignation at the end of 1993, just a few months after I was appointed by Hollinger, prompted the collective resignation of 30 (of the 120) journalists - was considered by all as a man of integrity and of honesty.

In his book published at the end of 1993, he devoted some 40 pages to the takeover of the *Post* by Hollinger, and to the events that led to his resignation and the changes that followed at the *Post*.

Frenkel and his colleagues who headed the collective resignation could not bear the thought that there are political approaches to the Arab-Israeli conflict different from their own. He strongly believed that only one voice should be heard and any other voice is illegitimate.

That belief was so strong that it even justified distorting facts presented in articles in the world press and, in the end, writing a chapter in his book full of insinuations, distortions and half-truths.

THIS ABSOLUTE belief in one political solution led to an editorial policy in which anything different was denied and could not find space on the *Post's* pages. The



Yehuda Levy (David Brauner)

labor court he "forgot" to indicate that he took the floor at the journalists' staff meeting which followed his resignation, and declared that "the publisher did not interfere in his editorial freedom."

He also failed to mention in his book that the *Post's* chairman, David Radler, in his visit here in June 1989 met not only with Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon, but also with finance minister Shimon Peres, president Chaim Herzog, mayor Teddy Kollek and Abba Eban. Radler also met with Yitzhak Rabin at that time, despite Frenkel's claim in his book that "the meeting with Rabin never took place."

All this could have been insignificant trivia in an insignificant book if it were not typical of Frenkel and the other senior journalists who departed the *Post* in 1990. The level of honesty and journalistic integrity, distortions and lies, to which they were ready to reduce themselves once they led to justify their own struggle was beneath contempt.

The late Yitzhak Rabin, then minister of defense, invited me to see him shortly after my appointment as the *Post's* president and publisher.

change to a pluralistic political approach was, therefore, an extreme change for Frenkel. Integrity should be measured not only by reputation. This "honest" journalist did not hesitate to omit from his book important facts which could ruin the theory of a "right-wing conspiracy" taking over the paper.

In his testimony given at the

The meeting was held under the shadow of the deep rift that then existed between the *Post* and the defense establishment, caused by the consistent support given by the *Post* to the Palestinians and the harsh criticism of the IDF and the way it acted during the intifada. At the end of the hour-long meeting Rabin said: "I want you to know that if Yasser Arafat had ever dreamed of a most effective tool of propaganda he could not have hoped for a better one than *The Jerusalem Post*." That was the paper in the eyes of a Laborite, not an "extreme rightist" (as some were calling the new publisher).

These efforts to discredit the new management started long before those "rebellious" journalists made any effort to really get to know the new management, its intentions or its political convictions, and these efforts are still going on today with the active support of journalists from the Hebrew press, who by and large never read, nor ever will read, *The Jerusalem Post* but who are ready to jump at every opportunity to bash the *Post* in order to please their comrades who left it more than seven years ago.

David Landau, who as the managing editor of the *Post* until the end of 1989 wrote more stories for foreign newspapers than for the one that paid his high salary and who later was sacked by another major paper, was quoted in a recent article in the local weekly

Yerushalayim as thanking me for creating the situation that brought him to the "top of the Israeli press, the Op-ed page of *Ha'aretz*." It certainly tops all other newspapers in one respect, that it is written by "people who think" that no one else has the right to think.

FRENKEL, LANDAU and others in that group believed that without them the *Post* would not survive. They aimed to shift the discussion from the real reasons which brought the paper to the verge of total collapse, i.e., the fact that in their last years at the *Post* they wrote mainly to serve their own political convictions, that they maintained a chaotic economy at the *Post*, that marketing, customer service and other such terms were entirely foreign to them.

They would rather blame it all on the "right-wing politics" that came to change and harm the *Post*, their own *Post* which was invaded by foreigners. (Strangely enough, Frenkel, in one of his remarks, refers to me as being "foreign to the *Post*, and to the language." True, I had to consult a dictionary from time to time, but could Frenkel and his colleagues, who by and large were foreigners to the country, consult a dictionary in order to better understand Israel and its neighbors?)

The *Jerusalem Post* of today is without doubt a different newspaper than it was in the days of Frenkel and Landau. It stands on a firm economic base, it provides its readers with 50 percent more pages a week and it maintains the highest journalistic standards in the country.

The *Post* is quoted almost daily by the most respected publications of the Western world, its Internet edition is by far the most successful Israeli web site and is placed among the top 10 dailies published in English. During the past eight years we managed to prove that there is no true conflict between publishing a high-quality newspaper and maintaining an economically healthy one.

One has to listen to the many voices we hear from all over the world, to read the letters of praise, to watch the messages on the computer screens, and to hear what Jewish and non-Jewish leaders say about the *Post* in order to conclude that we must be doing something very right. We do pay attention to criticism but we shall continue to ignore yesterday's bashers.

For these achievements, I thank our loyal readership, our devoted staff and our competent management.

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THE WEEK THAT WAS

A festival of political correctness

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Once upon a time, every Jewish mother dreamed of her son becoming a doctor or a lawyer.

Somewhere between getting our own state and reaching the 1980s, this dream underwent a change. It became more lucrative and more popular to aspire to owning a pickle-vendor's stall in the market.

The new social stamp of approval became even clearer at election time. Politicians of all persuasions descended on the nation's market-places to rub shoulders, to slap backs, to mingle their sweat with that of the honest worker, to gush with love for the common man.

Back in prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's government, Foreign Minister David Levy had some of his finest moments, publicly scoffing at the "Professor" title of then-defense minister Moshe Arens, when he dared challenge Levy for the party leadership.

The social screw has been given another twist by the Bar-On Affair. The report of the state prosecutor and attorney-general let everyone off the hook except Shas MK Aryeh Deri.

Now it has become most politically and socially incorrect to be a member of one of the so-called "elites." This is a very wide net indeed, catching in its trawl anyone holding a senior position in the civil service, legal system, academia, military, police or anything else — so long as it is painted Ashkenazi white and has certain liberal educational values.



The specter of Aryeh Deri's indictment turned this year's Mimouna into a groveling contest for politicians oozing brotherly love for their Moroccan brethren.

Elite-bashing is the new game in town. Every television and radio chat show simply had to have one or several token Sephardim — the anti-elite token. Suddenly, ethnic origin seemed to be the sole criterion for being invited to lash out at the "elites" and their conspiracies

and crimes. It was the "elites" who had conspired to undermine Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — the people's choice. Bad enough, but even worse was how the "elites" had ganged up against Deri in their continuing discrimination against all those of Moroccan ori-

gin — which has been going on since the early days of the state. Deri held a huge rally of supporters in which he slammed the founding fathers of secular Zionism and the state — the worst primeval "elite" of all in Shas philosophy. Those running the justice system come a close second.

GRAPEVINE

The PM's image-builders

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

UNLIKE Benjamin Netanyahu's election campaign guru Arthur Finkelstein, who prefers to remain incognito, local image builder Moti Morel was more than happy to tell the media of the part he played in the PM's response to the findings in the Bar-On Affair. Perhaps Morel should also go shopping with Bibi, who of late looks as if he's about to burst out of his suits. He's in a sufficiently uncomfortable position as it is. He shouldn't be constricted by his clothes as well.

WHILE SPECULATION continues as to whether Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi will remain in office or be transferred to another post, at least one person in the country, other than his mother and his wife, is delighted that he survived the Bar-On debacle. Motorcycle bandit Ronnie Leibovitz, who became a folk hero among some when he robbed 22 banks during 1990-1991 and received a 20-year sentence which was subsequently reduced to 14 following an appeal to the High Court of Justice, may be out in three years if Hanegbi's recommendation for leniency is followed through.

ambassador Paulino Romero, along with former Israeli ambassadors to Latin American countries such as Netanel Lorch and Sammy Tevet. Also present was Daniel Gazit, who heads the Foreign Ministry's Latin American desk.

Lockward, a historian, politician, journalist, poet, author and Evangelist lay preacher, describes himself as a "positive fanatic" explaining that Evangelism in Latin America is equal to Zionism. He has visited Israel on several occasions and is familiar with both the nation's history and current events, having kept himself updated via *The Jerusalem Post's* Internet edition.

AT \$600,000, there's no denying that *Absolute Justice* is a low-budget production, but for all that, it's bound to be a box-office success — at least in its first week of screening. Starring Ofra Haza and Arnon Zadok, the plot centers around a police investigator, snatched in childhood from his Yemenite parents, who as an adult meets up with his biological sister.

Shooting is taking place in the Yemenite bastions of Rosh Ha'ayin and Kibbutz Ga'ash, and will be completed this month. The film is scheduled to premiere

GROVEL, GROVEL

If "elites and ethnics" is the fashionable new version of snakes and ladders, then "grovel" is the new Monopoly. Bootlicking can be fun, if the boots belong either to someone facing criminal charges, or to a politician belonging to Shas, or, preferably, to both.

Among those who prostrated themselves before Deri this week were Labor leaders Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, Haim Ramon and others — all of whom found fault with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision to indict only the Shas luminary.

But a new benchmark for groveling was set by Labor's Young Guard. Sounding more like Red Guards, they topped their pilgrimage to Deri with the most fawning "Hail! O Great One" speeches. They were there only to support and encourage him. They wished that he "come out clean" from "all this business." He most graciously warned them of an "ethnic explosion." He did not have to add "unless I'm acquitted at trial."

And never ever has Israel seen such a festival of political correctness as this week's Mimouna. Politicians of every shape, creed and origin fell over one another while scouring the countryside for celebrations to honor with their presence — and hopefully a cameraman or two.

Oozing brotherly love for their Moroccan brethren, they snuffed inanely grinning faces with sticky sweets and propped funny hats on top of their brains.

GEE, THANKS

During the police investigation of the Bar-On Affair, Labor leaders put their "opposition" hats in a dark closet and stayed mum.

They would not attack Netanyahu, amid hopes of a unity government if it all miraculously cleared up. They would not, of course, blast Deri — one never knows when a Shas might be needed in a coalition.

To their amazement, the "gee, thanks" reward they got for their sickly silence was top billing on both Netanyahu and Deri's hit lists.

Shas leaders said they would never again align with Labor "for what they did to Deri." Of course there are no finer representatives of the "elites" and founding fathers than Labor, said Knesset members. Bar-Onigate has given us yet another new phrase: "Failure to internalize." In Labor's case, the leaders have failed to internalize a prime rule of Israeli politics — the more you bend over to lick Deri's boots, the bigger the target your butt presents for booting.

PLENTY O' MONEY

Despite the Bar-On Affair, the economy managed to squeeze a word in edgewise into the news this week. They warned of an imminent slowdown, rising unemployment, a growing deficit and other horrors.

The word "privatization" has become as rare as "peace process" in the government lexicon.

Economy officials are muttering about drastic measures. Since senior-citizen benefits, health services and education facilities are already slashed, one can only wonder what's next.

But, for some things, there is always money aplenty. Take Bank Leumi (state-owned), how's the election-promised privatization coming along? Its managers received several hundreds of thousands of shekels in bonuses. Then there is the Housing Ministry, which is planning the construction of thousands of apartments in quarters outside Jerusalem. *Ha'ariv* reported, in addition to thousands of others in the settlements. The Defense Ministry is planning more "Autonomy bypass" roads in the territories to the tune of NIS 1 billion, said *Ha'aretz*.

Best of all, financial allocations to the religious and haredi parties' affiliated organizations and the non-Zionist Habad movement are to increase by NIS 30 million, to a staggering NIS 80 million. *Ha'aretz* revealed.

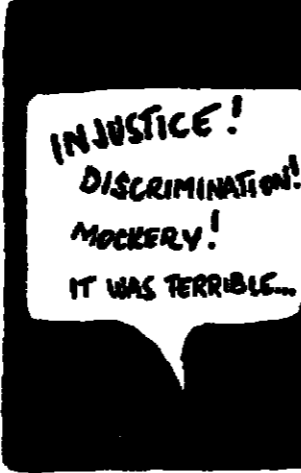
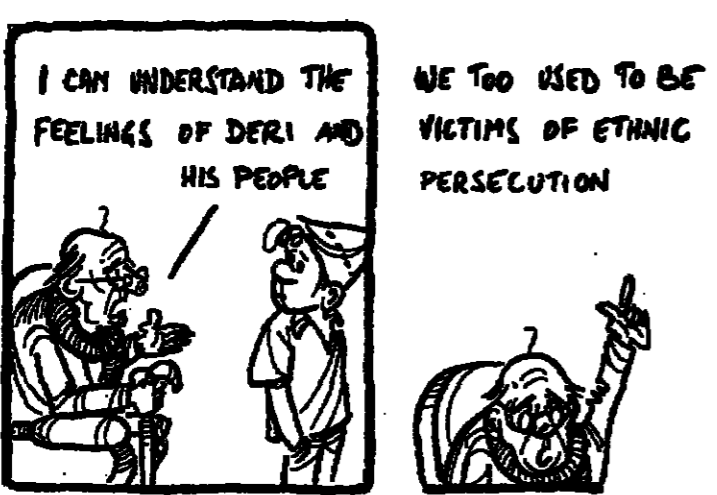
Organizations affiliated with Shas will get NIS 25 million. These funds come from the budgets of the Religious Affairs and Education ministries and simply reinstate the corrupt old "special allocations" which favored politically affiliated organizations at the expense of non-political ones.

Habad and other allocations are at the expense of Reform and Conservative cultural institutions, among others, whose budgets have been cut off completely.

The budget of the large (but secular) Scouts youth movement was slashed in half, threatening its existence.



SRULIK



Ofra Haza will star in a new film dramatizing the kidnapping of a Yemenite child.

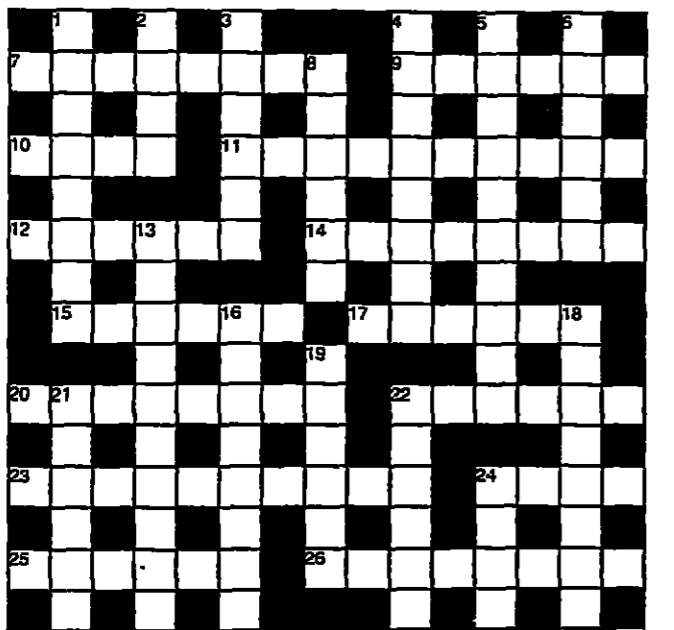
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

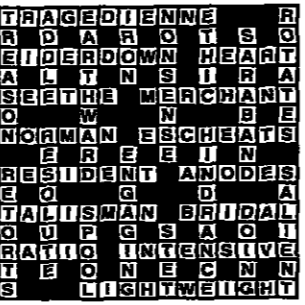
- 7 Inform in a whimsical speech (8)
- 9 Foreign money is a nuisance—no head on it (6)
- 10 Sediment is disturbed by lieutenant (4)
- 11 Reasonable excuse to go to place of entertainment (10)
- 12 Mark book—it's the truth (6)
- 14 Ineffective person makes fortune, crossing a sea (4,4)
- 15 He's always agreeable to have as a companion (3-3)
- 17 Bury Ben and Tom—they fell together (6)
- 20 Early flower quietly came up beyond the boundary (8)
- 22 Chip shop where they rake it in? You bet! (6)
- 23 Tax too much for bowling coach (10)
- 24 Produce handle of whip (4)
- 25 Press for evidence of identity (6)
- 26 Round about ten, their unlucky number (8)

5 Being al fresco makes a difference to our foods (3,2,5)

- 6 Where leaders of country lie ill, nursed in comfort? (8)
- 8 Play idly with one's food (6)
- 13 This is never a quick examination (4-6)
- 16 Pay off debt—more, as it turns out (8)
- 18 As magistrate, order wine container with port (4,4)
- 19 Go for old record in quick run (8)
- 21 Show engineers some meat (6)
- 22 Openly confessing—and arrested by police (6)
- 24 Quote from a particular place out loud (4)



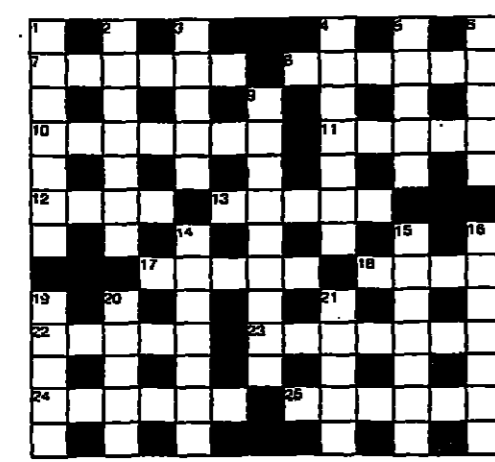
SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Quart, 4 Early, 10 Tidings, 11 Heart, 13 Earth, 13 Spillo, 15 Erse, 17 Soars, 19 Empty, 23 Able, 25 Article, 27 Dwell, 29 Trade, 30 Changed, 31 Temp, 33 Bead.
DOWN: 3 Under, 3 Rancher, 6 Aphid, 8 Landet, 7 Sheep, 8 Assess, 9 Sows, 14 Foot, 16 Beak, 18 Cottage, 20 Mediate, 21 Nasty, 23 Search, 24 Slide, 26 Cheap, 28 Elger.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 7 Spice (6)
- 8 Aircraft shed (6)
- 10 Impolite (7)
- 11 Invalide (7)
- 12 Rage (4)
- 13 Possessor (5)
- 17 Christmas song (5)
- 18 Unwanted plant (4)
- 22 Get up (5)
- 23 Liken (7)
- 24 Counting frame (6)
- 25 Dive (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Shabby (7)
- 2 Witchcraft (7)
- 3 Depart (5)
- 4 Floor-show (7)
- 5 Representative (5)
- 6 Amusing (5)
- 9 Laggard (9)
- 14 Cautious (7)
- 15 Stays (7)
- 16 Stuck (7)
- 19 Mau-made waterway (5)
- 20 Last (5)
- 21 Plenty (5)



L'expression personnelle

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GENERALLY DAPPER

Labor MK Yossi Beilin seemed to identify more than usual with Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat during the Pessah holiday. Beilin was seen sporting a grizzly stubble not unlike that which has made Arafat a cartoonists' delight. But by the time they had their meeting, Beilin, having shaved and exchanged his T-shirt for a suit and tie, was back to his more sartorial self.

WHEN FORMER

Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol Mordechai Palzur issued invitations to a small party which he and his wife, Michal, were hosting on behalf of Jorge Alfonso Lockward, the new ambassador for the Dominican Republic, he was referring to time more than numbers. Since Lockward was



Her choice exposed: Pamela Lee Anderson has decided to show less flesh than usual.

POPULARITY CAN sometimes

be a curse. When Hebrew University Professor Yehoshua Porat, author of *The Emergence of Palestinian Arab Nationalism*, agreed to speak at the inaugural session of The Middle East Forum initiated by Harvard Business School graduate Daniel Diker, he was told that the event would take around an hour-and-a-half. Accordingly, he made other commitments for later in the evening, not realizing that his subject, "The PLO Covenant," would be so popular as to keep the audience in their seats for at least another hour. Porat didn't have that hour to spare, as a result of which Palestinian journalist, researcher and consultant Walid Awad had an additional opportunity to put forward the Palestinian viewpoint.

FIRST SHE played Lois Lane in

Lois and Clark, but now Terry Hatcher has a much more sophisticated on-screen boyfriend — none other than James Bond V. Hatcher will be cuddling up to Pierce Brosnan, the fifth actor to wear the 007 mantle.

SHE DOESN'T leave much to the imagination in the swimsuits

she wears on *Baywatch*, but Pamela Lee Anderson has apparently had second thoughts about total exposure, which was why she was sued by an LA production company for breach of contract. Anderson had allegedly agreed to do nude scenes, but exercised her female prerogative — and changed her mind.

HER LONG romance with former

superstar Spencer Tracy was fodder for the tabloids for years after his death. Katharine Hepburn and Tracy never wed, because Tracy, a Catholic and married, could not divorce his wife. The feisty Hepburn remained true to his memory and her name was not linked romantically with any other man. Gutsy both on screen and off, she celebrates her 90th birthday this month.

I S P t i S I C I D I T Y H e r e T h i s l e t t e r c o d e T a l p r i o C O Under *A sam growth coveri abling

RELATIONS TREAS MEAN STEADY FOR

BUSINESS

in brief

et records another monthly surplus

government managed last month to keep its spending in or just below the budget, registering a NIS 472 million surplus, excluding credit granting, the Treasury said. The government had a NIS 200m. surplus. Since the beginning of year the Treasury has registered a budget deficit of NIS 30m. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

gn currency reserves at record \$16b.

's foreign currency reserves last month totaled an all-time high of \$16.011 billion, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday. The central bank attributed the \$675 million increase to a combination of factors, including a sharp increase in the financial private sector. *David Harris*

r up 4.8% on shekel so far in '97

JS dollar appreciated against the shekel by 4.8 percent in the first four months of the year, according to figures published by the Central Bureau of statistics. During April, the dollar's value rose 1.4% to end the month at NIS 3.4070, against a basket of currencies gained 1% against the shekel last month to close at NIS 3.6788. During April, the dollar also appreciated against the other currencies in the basket - against the franc by 2.8%, the yen 2.6% and the pound 0.25%. *David Harris*

: Reduce recycled-water prices

ied sewage water for farm use should be reduced in price 40 percent per cubic meter to 51 agorot, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan proposed yesterday. This suggestion would allow for increased use of this water, while reducing its price on pure water. *David Harris*

duties reduced by 37%

rt duty on apples will be reduced by 37%, from NIS 1.60 per kilogram, for May and June, after Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday agreed to a proposal by Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan. The reduction comes following a poor harvest last year and inclement weather. The Agriculture Ministry hopes the reduction will prevent an apple shortage and any subsequent price increase. The imports will come primarily from Europe and the U.S. *David Harris*

Dispute settlement firm opens local office

Business arbitration company Negotiator Pro Co. has set up its Israel subsidiary - Mediation & Negotiation Ltd. - in Tel Aviv. The company's aim is to encourage commercial enterprises to resolve disputes out-of-court. The issues are negotiated and a compromise reached, an agreement will be signed between the parties and the company. If the issues are not resolved, the company will send the agreement on to the courts for legal approval. In addition to this service, the company also hopes to market computer programs and courses for university students. *David Harris*

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Kaplan quits Africa Israel; cites Leviev hands-on style

By DAVID HARRIS

Africa Israel general manager Avigdor Kaplan has resigned after only three months in the post, and will be replaced temporarily by the holding company's chairman and major shareholder, Lev Leviev.

Kaplan will assume the leadership of Clal Insurance, the Globes financial daily yesterday reported.

At the same time, Bank Leumi head of subsidiaries Zvi Hiskovitz has been named as Africa Israel's vice chairman.

While Kaplan's letter does not mention any major differences between himself and Leviev, it does indicate he would have preferred Leviev to be a less active chairman. Israel's second-largest holding company

recently became the focus of a public storm when Leviev, who is Orthodox, announced that the new Ramat Aviv shopping mall the company is building would not open on Shabbat. Company representatives would not comment on whether that affair played a role in Kaplan's decision.

Kaplan joined Africa Israel after resigning from his post as Kupat Holim Clalit director-general. He built up his reputation during his four years in the health-care sector, during which he improved the fund's level of service and its financial condition.

Prior to working with Clalit, Kaplan was Israel Aircraft Industries' US representative and former deputy director-general for manpower.

Leviev, meanwhile, became Africa

Israel's major shareholder last November, having bought a 46 percent stake for \$189 million. This followed the government's demand that the company's original owner, Bank Leumi, divest itself of some non-banking assets ahead of its anticipated privatization.

In his letter to Leviev, Kaplan wrote: "I really appreciate the effort and time you have devoted to the structure and development of the company in the months we've worked together and I must point out that you have gone out of your way to give of your time to your employees and to meet the company's needs."

"However, I have found your work as an active chairman, though important, has not allowed me sufficient space, in my opinion, to carry out my role as general manager."

Consequently, after lengthy and difficult consideration, I have decided to resign from my position."

Kaplan had initially accepted the job for a three-month trial period. Since Leviev's takeover, several senior managers have resigned, including senior deputy general manager and No. 2 in the company Shimshon Harel, deputy general manager Danny Miran, who served as general manager of Denia Cebus, and Eli Yonah, the director representing the South African shareholders.

Africa Israel completed 1996 with a net profit of NIS 74.9m., compared with a net profit of NIS 114m. the previous year. Leviev stressed that those results represent the performance of the company under the ownership of Bank Leumi.



Air trader

The latest technology on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade is the high-rise black shoe that boosts a trader's eye level by as much as three inches in the crowded trading pits. Trader Daniel Miller models his shoes on the floor of the exchange. (Reuters)

VAT chief favors near-term tax hike

By DAVID HARRIS

Customs and VAT director Mond Ayalon wants to increase VAT by roughly 1 percent, to allow for a reduction in the purchase tax on electrical goods, he told reporters this week. However, he added that he favors an eventual reduction in VAT by 1% to 2%, when state revenues can support such a move.

Ayalon said he is opposed to a 1% increase in VAT to offset the budget deficit.

While Treasury officials are reportedly continuing to prepare a NIS 1 billion cut in public spending, there have been calls to increase VAT rather than axing public services. The Prime Minister's Office remains firmly opposed to any increase in VAT or other taxes.

While the government has pledged itself to reforming the taxation system, Finance Minister Dan Meridor decided to put off the discussions until later this year, probably to coincide with early summer talks on the 1998 budget.

Ayalon's spokeswoman Idit Lev-Zerahia yesterday rejected a proposal from the Victims of Property Tax organization to increase VAT by 1%, but to remove it completely from electricity bills. "There must be a uniform VAT rate, not lower here, or higher there," she said. "Why choose electricity for this sort of treatment rather than, say, medicines or milk?"

Looking ahead, Ayalon said he would like to see the regressive VAT reduced by 1% to 2%. This is currently impossible given the shortfall in state revenues. He maintains that VAT hits poorer people hard.

An immediate increase in VAT by 1% to offset other tax deductions would bring some NIS 1.3 billion into the Treasury. However, Ayalon sees the urgent need to reduce the "draconian" taxes now levied on the purchase of electrical goods. The current 85% tax on items such as televisions, videos, and stereos, would be reduced to 40%, with the tax on household appliances such as refrigerators and dishwashers reduced from 45% to 30% and a 10% tax on smaller goods, including telephones and vacuum cleaners.

There was a 2% overall first quarter increase in income to the Customs and VAT department, which took in NIS 11.5b.

Eisenberg's will excludes daughter

By ORNA RAVIV and STELLA KORIN-LEBER

Shoul Eisenberg's daughter, Esther Zochovitzky, has been disinherited, according to the late tycoon's will, in which he left 80 percent of his estate to his son Erwin, and 5% to each of his other three living daughters.

A police investigation was launched, but then Albin died under circumstances that suggested suicide, and Zochovitzky fled the country, and since then has lived with Esther in New York.

Leah Eisenberg plans to sue for 50% of the estate, according to the presumption of partnership. The suit will be filed next week. According to various Supreme Court rulings, property accumulated during a couple's years together belongs equally to both, unless they agreed otherwise. Leah Eisenberg claims that according to this rule, her late husband, who was an Israeli citizen, could not divide their common property without her agreement; in any case, he could not distribute her share (50%) of the common property.

At least one lawyer consulted by Erwin Eisenberg cited this legal problem, particularly as regards the property in Israel. In that case, Eisenberg's estate would include only 50% of the common property. In light of this, Erwin Eisenberg has begun negotiating with the other heirs, primarily with his mother, to reach an understanding on the division of property. The parties have embarked on a race to locate the many assets Eisenberg left, to ensure the family's legal rights to them. *Globes*

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Elbit in Brazil avionics deal

By STEVE RODAN

Elbit and a Sao Paulo aircraft manufacturer have signed a contract to develop mission avionics for the Brazilian Air Force's ALX program, the parties announced during an air show in Brazil. The contract's value was not disclosed. Elbit will supply an avionic suite, which includes a modular computer, LCD color displays, Head-Up Displays, advanced navigation system and armament system. Embraer, Brazil's largest aircraft manufacturer, will integrate the Elbit avionics to the ALX. Embraer was contracted in 1995 by the Brazilian Aviation Ministry to develop an enhanced version of

the Super Tucano. The contract calls for 100 ALXs for the air force, with an option of more being made for customers abroad.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.975	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.5.97)					
	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rate**
Currency basket	3,8450	3,7018	—	—	3,9804
U.S. dollar	3,3748	3,4293	3,31	3,48	3,4100
German mark	1,9644	1,9880	1,92	2,02	1,9744
Pound sterling	5,4851	5,5798	5,39	5,88	5,5355
French franc	0,5795	0,5899	0,58	0,50	0,5698
Japanese yen (100)	2,8225	2,8224	2,81	2,74	2,8324
Dutch florin	1,7371	1,7632	1,70	1,79	1,7550
Swiss franc	2,2950	2,3321	2,25	2,37	2,3193
Australian dollar	0,4301	0,4371	0,42	0,48	0,4348
Canadian dollar	0,6783	0,6830	0,68	0,69	0,6936
Denmark krone	0,5134	0,5217	0,50	0,53	0,5188
Finland mark	0,8505	0,8610	0,83	0,88	0,8586
Canadian dollar	2,4167	2,4357	2,37	2,49	2,4419
Australian dollar	2,8478	2,8904	2,80	2,79	2,8783
S. African rand	0,7585	0,7708	0,88	0,78	0,7688
Belgian franc (10)	0,8467	0,8820	0,83	0,88	0,8568
Austrian schilling (10)	2,7775	2,8223	2,72	2,87	2,8033
Italian lire (1,000)	1,9790	2,0069	1,94	2,04	1,9958
Jordanian dinar	4,7000	5,0200	4,70	5,02	4,5763
Egyptian pound	0,8600	1,0400	0,86	1,04	1,0060
ECU	3,6110	3,6725	—	—	3,6224
Irish punt	5,0294	5,1098	4,84	5,19	5,0792
Spanish peseta (100)	2,9153	2,9929	2,27	2,39	2,3412
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.					
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI					

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

AMEX

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Change. Includes Am Israel Paper Mills, Am Overseas, etc.

NASDAQ

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Change. Includes Aconit Software, A.S. Associates, etc.

MISHTANIM

IN THE LEADERSHIP

LAST CHANGE

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Change. Includes Al Paper Mills, Adrethan Ind., etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes B.V.A. Technologies, Checkpoint Software, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes U.S. Intelligent Info, Israel Land Develop., etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Tel Aviv Software Group, Samuel Design, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Mishtanin, Maof, NYSE.

TASE ROUNDP

Dull market steadies

Mishtanin 255.88 ▲ +0.30%

Maof 265.71 ▲ +0.02%

Shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange closed slightly higher yesterday with traders saying the market was expected to stabilize at its current level.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDP

FTSE sets record high

LONDON (Reuter) — UK shares ended a nervous election-day session yesterday with a closing record but by the slimmest of margins as many investors stayed

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes DJ Industrial, DJ Transp., etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Last, Change. Includes Pound, Yen, etc.

US COMMODITIES

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Includes Cocoa, Cotton, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Includes Copper, Gold, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with 3 columns: Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with 3 columns: Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON METAL FUTURES

Table with 3 columns: Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

NEW YORK

Large table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Al Paper Mills, Adrethan Ind., etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Dominatec, Doron Corp., etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes E & G Corp, Eastern Energy, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes FMC Corp, Fedex, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Gen. Electric, Gen. Mills, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Gen. Motors, Gen. Foods, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last, Change. Includes Gen. Foods, Gen. Foods, etc.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafez Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said they see no solution in sight that would restart the peace process.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow closes lower

NEW YORK (Reuter) — Blue-chip stocks closed lower yesterday in their first setback of the week as investors turned cautious before today's key jobs report for April.

CELL PHONE

Continued from Page 1

Friday. Due to a human, technical error, this person did not know that Albricht was scheduled to return from Russia only after Shabbat begins.

LABOR

Continued from Page 1

Asked if he expected to win the election, Blair was somewhat cautious: "It depends on the people."

CONCERT OF CHORAL WORKS

Mechanicals (Germany) Director: Martin Kahle Works by J.S. Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schickel, etc. Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 7 p.m.

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NEWS

in brief

Two held for young girls' rape

Two men, 24 and 22, suspected of raping two girls, aged 12 and 15, and enticing them to use drugs, were remanded by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday for six days. A third suspect in the case was released to house arrest for 15 days. A juvenile was also arrested on suspicion of having sex with one of the girls, and was released on bail by a juvenile court judge. *Itim*

Court upholds Manbar remand

Businessman Nahum Manbar's appeal against having his remand extended until Monday was rejected yesterday morning by Tel Aviv District Court President Menahem Ilan. He is expected to be indicted by Monday, and prosecutors will request that he be held until the end of legal proceedings. *Itim*

Ceremony 50 years after British hangings

Some 200 veterans of the various pre-state Jewish undergrounds gathered at Beit Hanassi yesterday for a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the hanging of 13 underground members by the British Mandatory Authorities and of the Acre Prison break-out. Members of the families of those executed were presented with a special medal to mark the occasion. President Ezer Weizman paid tribute to the role the undergrounds played in the establishment of the state. "The victory in the Six Day War was achieved on the foundations you established," he said. *Itim*

Treasury, Health Ministry discuss funding

"Some progress" in talks between Treasury and Health Ministry officials over financing of the basket of health services was made yesterday, according to the Health Ministry spokesman. Minister Yehoshua Matza, who went to Geneva for World Health Organization meetings, asked the ministry teams to continue working for 10 days and present their conclusions to him. Major gaps between the two ministries remain, the spokesman said, but agreement was reached on several principles for trying to find financial solutions to the funding crisis. The deficit in financing health services totals more than NIS 1.5 billion. *Judy Siegel*

Animal shelter suffers another break-in

The shelter of the Jerusalem Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Atarot has suffered its second break-in within a week. Last Friday night intruders killed 12 dogs at the shelter, apparently by poison and strangulation. On Wednesday night, intruders smashed kennels and equipment in the veterinary clinic and office, and stole some items. Although no dogs were physically harmed in the second attack, several showed signs of distress. The walls were daubed with pro-Fatah graffiti in Arabic. Due to financial problems, the JSPCA has been unable to hire a night watchman. *Liat Collins*



Bendheim honored by Jerusalem

New York businessman and philanthropist Charles Bendheim (left), chats with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, at a City Hall ceremony yesterday at which Bendheim received a citation as an Honorary Fellow of Jerusalem. Bendheim, 79, is chairman of Shaare Zedek Hospital's executive committee and founder of the city's Koffolk chemical factory. He was lauded for his five decades of work on behalf of the capital. *(Text: Judy Siegel, Photo: Isaac Harari)*

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

Due to a technical error, the solutions to three crossword puzzles were published out of sequence this week. Here are the solutions to the puzzles.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

ACROSS: 1 Telling, 5 Tails, 9 Mocha, 9 Machebe, 10 Dungeon, 11 Title, 12 Fecund, 14 Dandy, 17 Chasm, 19 Fleeced, 23 Impasse, 25 Idiom, 24 Needs, 25 Nonagon.

DOWN: 1 Tamed, 2 Laconic, 3 Isaac, 4 Genius, 5 Tacitas, 6 Isert, 7 Scenery, 12 Faction, 13 Nemesis, 15 Iskhing, 16 Spleen, 15 Ampie, 20 Union, 21 Demos.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

ACROSS: 1 Pena, 3 Portrait, 9 Libya, 10 Panache, 11 Nab, 13 Tight-knit, 14 Sombre, 16 Unwind, 18 Lollipop, 20 Nab, 22 Crowned, 23 Cowry, 25 Tending, 26 Obse.

DOWN: 1 Pylon, 2 Nab, 4 Oppugn, 5 Tauson, 6 Accension, 7 Trysted, 8 Mass, 12 Eruption, 14 Solicit, 15 Egniah, 17 Golden, 19 Sack, 21 Boyne, 24 Nab.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

ACROSS: 1 Speck, 4 Tickle, 9 Furber, 10 Finer, 4 Tickle, 9 Furber, 10 Finer, 11 Tell, 12 Denuded, 13 Tie, 14 Free, 16 Tome, 18 Poe, 20 Dilemma, 21 Dala, 24 Eaten, 25 Curious, 28 Easily, 27 Train.

DOWN: 1 Safety, 2 Enrol, 3 Keen, 5 Infatig, 6 Kingdom, 7 Egress, 8 Erude, 13 Terminal, 15 Belated, 17 Adhere, 18 Fancy, 19 Raison, 25 Aromas, 26 Grit.

PUBLISHER

Continued from Page 1

may have noticed on yesterday's masthead, namely finding myself back here as publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*, one of Israel's oldest newspapers.

The Jerusalem Post can benefit significantly from being part of one of the largest and most distinguished newspaper chains, operating in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. I am honored that the owners have entrusted me with the direction of one of the world's great titles, and thrilled to return to Jerusalem as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Zionist movement and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the state.

Owners expect a publisher to sell newspapers. As a reader and writer, however, I understand that we are not so much selling you a newspaper as - six days a week - asking to borrow your scarce time in the face of many competing demands and pressures.

We will only succeed if you find our material useful, informative, well-written, and interesting. Content and presentation are what matter; all the rest is simply housekeeping. There is no contradiction between quality and profitability; rather, the two are mutually reinforcing.

Ours is a diverse audience - or, rather, audiences - consisting of English-speaking readers in Israel, including those whose mother tongue is Hebrew and wish to improve their mastery of the world's lingua franca. We must offer our readers a wide range of political, cultural, economic, and social information, and constantly seek out what is new and innovative. Our daily edition must remain in constant contact with its readers throughout Israel; the international editions must reflect the special, historic links between the Jewish people and Israel.

In the cacophony of messages that is today's media environment, we have a special responsibility, as Israel's only English-language daily, to present a true and accurate portrayal of reality. This does not mean that we must eschew passion. It does demand, however, that our personal political opinions and views - be they of the left or right - must never be allowed to color the headlines or spill over onto the news pages

from the editorial pages.

Even here, we must present a broad spectrum of views to help the reader understand the course of daily events. Our only criterion is quality; our only restriction complete rejection of racism and incitement.

I am proud of the team at *The Jerusalem Post* and am committed to work with it to improve the product for our readers. Many have remarked that this newspaper is the world's window on Israel, which, with the sixth most popular newspaper web site in the world, has never been truer than it is today.

Israeli society today is acutely polarized. Secular and religious, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, rich and poor, Jew and Arab must find ways to maintain a civil discourse. There is no better way to do so than through respect for the fundamental rules of democracy, including freedom of expression. *The Jerusalem Post* will explore with sensitivity the tension between Israel as a democratic and Jewish state; we will probe with balance and urgency the quest for new relationships in the region that have the potential to enhance Israel's security and prosperity.

Our role is to help bridge gaps and not exacerbate them - be they within Israeli society or in Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors. The overriding responsibility is to carry out our craft with professionalism and honesty.

Changes are coming in both the content and format of *The Jerusalem Post* - not change for its own sake, but change that will enhance the appeal of this newspaper.

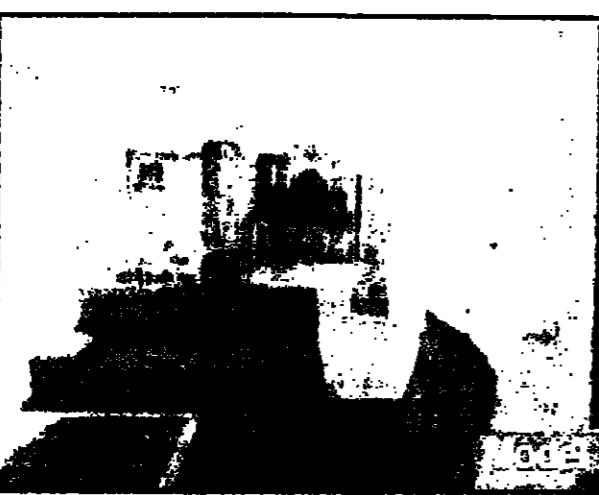
I shall be aided immeasurably by your views, the views of our readers. Some may be asked to serve as outside, informal advisers. I invite all of you to communicate your views of the paper directly to me - what you wish to see more of, what less, what appeals, and what displeases. You can fax me at 02-538-7862, or e-mail me at publisher@post.co.il, or write to me at The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

I cannot promise to implement every suggestion. I do give you my commitment to reflect on each one, as the staff of *The Jerusalem Post* goes about improving the newspaper and serving you better - what promises to be a challenging, but exciting period in the history of Israel and the Middle East.

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מכירת הארבע

Knesset convenes Thursday

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset will convene Thursday, despite the spring recess, for another special session, after the necessary 30 MKs signed a request.

Eight urgent motions to the agenda are scheduled to be heard: The international isolation of Israel (Labor); opposition activities in the area of foreign policy which weaken Israel (Likud); the death of the peace process (Labor); the Palestinian fight against terror as a condition for the continuation of the peace process (Likud); the UN decision on construction of Har Homa (Labor and Hadasah); the national struggle to strengthen sovereignty in Jerusalem (Likud); the desecration of Shabbat and a religious holiday to prepare for the Mimonna festivities (United Torah Judaism); and the State Comptroller's Report (Likud). More motions could be added to the list by Thursday.

The session was initially called for by Labor, but the Likud responded by proposing motions of its own. Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan said Labor is apparently interested in calling as many sessions as possible before its party convention.

The Knesset is scheduled to begin its summer session on May 19.

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Beilin predicts 'surprise'

"There will be a big surprise" on June 3, the day of the Labor Party's leadership primary, MK Yossi Beilin, one of the candidates for party leader, said yesterday.

"I certainly admit that Ehud Barak has a lead in the polls conducted among party members," Beilin said, "but the most important thing is who can defeat the Likud. Barak's main contention, that only he can defeat the Likud and [Binyamin] Netanyahu, is faulty. Today, everyone can point to polls that show that both Barak and myself can beat Netanyahu."

Beilin said that a significant number of Barak supporters, who really would prefer to see him as party leader and prime ministerial candidate, will shift their support to him should it become apparent that his chances of beating Netanyahu are equal to those of Barak.

Magen suspends resignation

By SARAH HONIG

Deputy Finance Minister David Magen suspended his resignation for "two to three weeks" yesterday, after Geshet leader David Levy's intervention.

Magen, however, promised "big surprises" soon in the political arena, but did not elaborate.

Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky predicted personnel changes in the government and the prime minister's bureau soon, while Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced the establishment of a Likud-Tsomet-Geshet ministerial forum that will meet weekly.

The political scene was rife with speculation yesterday about a possible cabinet reshuffle, when Magen made his comments about "a great surprise that will come soon." He refused to elaborate

except to advise reporters to "keep a very close watch on the political scene and be especially wary when the Knesset reconvenes."

Two sources close to Levy said last night that they had no idea what Magen has in mind, though they did stress that neither Levy nor anyone else in Geshet has any intention of bolting the coalition.

Magen announced on Wednesday that he would be resigning his post in the hope that he could then spur Geshet to leave the Likud-led bloc and the coalition.

The final aim, Magen said, was early elections. It was to that end that Magen conferred with Levy yesterday, intending to immediately afterwards submit his resignation to Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

But instead of Magen persuading Levy, it took only a 30-minute tete-

a-tete for Levy to talk Magen out of resigning now.

Magen maintained last night that he had not changed his mind. "I am just as resolved as I had been to quit my post at the Finance Ministry and I will do so a bit later than I had planned - perhaps two to three weeks later."

Magen blamed his decision to step down on Netanyahu's speech after the release of the attorney-general's report on the Bar-On Affair. But it was an open secret in Geshet that he had been extremely unhappy with his job and had repeatedly expressed a desire to quit.

"I cannot act alone as an individual. I am part of a team and must play with it," Magen said last night. "Meanwhile I await new, unexpected developments on the political scene."

He further deepened the mystery

by saying that "one small step in internal party politics can become a big move in the political arena."

One suggestion was that Geshet may have made overtures to Yisrael Ba'Aliya. It was noted that Magen and Levy had recently conferred with the party's Sharansky and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein.

There was no confirmation by either party of any joint moves.

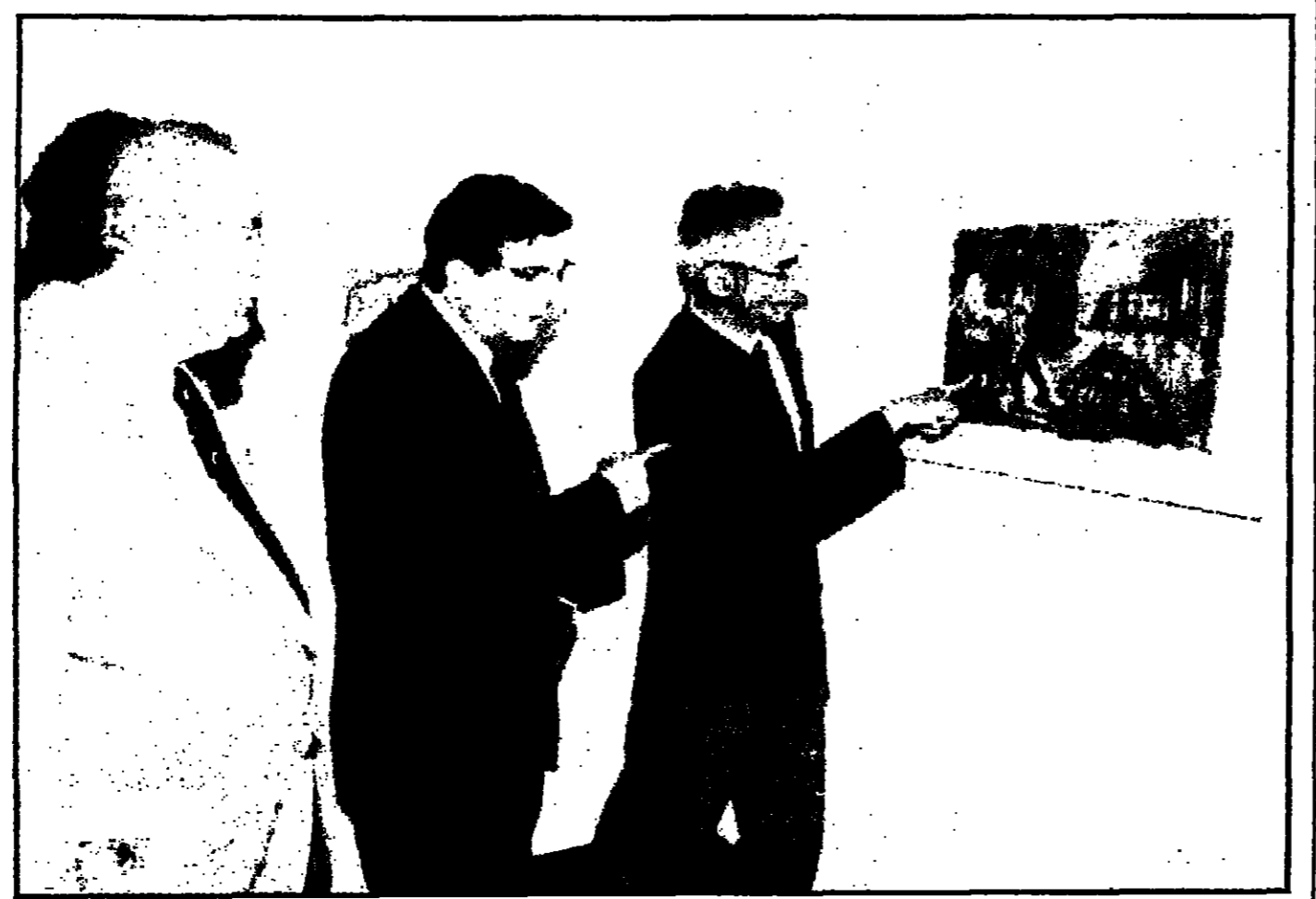
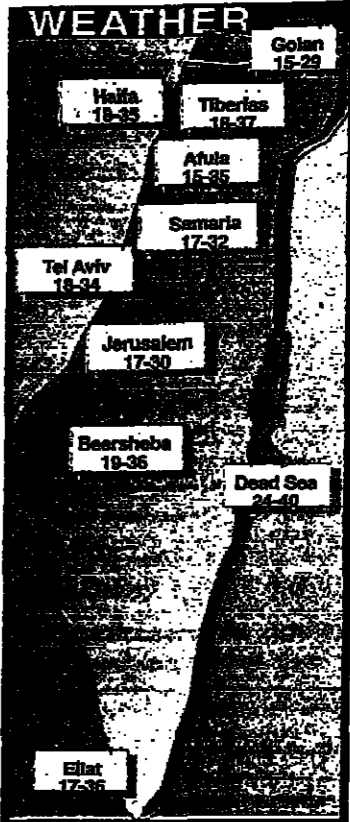
Sharansky, meanwhile, told students in Herzliya yesterday that "changes should be expected on all sorts of levels in the government and not just in the prime minister's bureau. The prime minister should be given a chance to work those changes in."

In another development yesterday, Netanyahu made one more move to convince his ministers that he is serious about consulting more with them.

Yesterday, he announced the formation of a Likud-Geshet-Tsomet ministerial forum, which would include all Likud ministers as well as Levy and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan. The forum will meet at 8:00 a.m. each Friday, an hour before the weekly cabinet meeting. The forum is to debate current issues before they are aired in the full cabinet.

The new forum would be in addition to the deputy premiers' forum, which meets with Netanyahu and which also includes Levy and Eitan, as well as the Likud's Moshe Katsav and the National Religious Party's Zevulun Hammer.

The new forum was generally welcomed in the factions concerned. Levy said that Netanyahu had consulted him "and I warmly endorsed this idea. Such forums had existed in the past and could help prevent misunderstandings."



A survivor's art
A painting by Holocaust survivor David Oler, who died in 1985, is examined by his son, Alexander (right), Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev, and renowned Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld (left) at the opening of an exhibition of the artist's works at Yad Vashem on Wednesday. Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day will begin on Sunday night, having been delayed by one day due to Shabbat. A new program to teach pupils more about gentiles who rescued Jews during the Holocaust has been prepared by the Education Ministry. The program includes stories and testimony describing the devotion Righteous Gentiles displayed in their efforts to save lives. It also discusses the dangers and moral dilemmas they faced. (Issac Harari)

Elie Wiesel given honorary post at Swiss Holocaust fund

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Switzerland yesterday appointed Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel "honorary international chairman" of the Holocaust humanitarian fund, a ceremonial title that ends the latest snarl in Jewish-Swiss relations.

Wiesel has the title but no special powers on the seven-member executive of the multimillion-dollar fund that is to benefit needy Holocaust survivors. Wiesel was awarded the title "in recognition of his extraordinary accomplishments and his respected moral guidance," the Federal Council said in a statement.

Before the announcement, Wiesel said he had been unaware of the imbric about the title. In fact, he told *The Jerusalem Post* late Wednesday, the title is not important. He also had reservations about his participation in the fund.

"This is not my field," he said. "I must see it's for me."

In another development, after more than a year of damaging media reports,

the Swiss government has hired Ruder Finn, a New York public relations firm, to help repair its image. Ruder Finn's clients include the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Jewish Outreach Program.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization, which nominated the three non-Swiss members of the executive, had demanded a special role for Wiesel, although the by-laws of the fund - worked out by the WJRO and the Swiss - call for the president to be Swiss, according to Swiss and Jewish sources. The fund's president is Rolf Bloch, a chocolate manufacturer who is the head of the Swiss Jewish community.

The Swiss named Bloch and the three other Swiss members of the executive on April 16, with an announcement saying, "It is extremely important that the Special Fund for the benefit of needy victims of the Holocaust be able to begin operation very rapidly."

The other Jewish members are NRP

elder statesman Josef Burg and Likud MK Avraham Harshan.

The seven candidates' names were not formally revealed until April 22, and the Federal Council was nonplussed by the demand for a title for Wiesel, Swiss Foreign Ministry sources said. The WJRO had not raised the matter when it negotiated with the Swiss over the format of the fund's by-laws.

The struggle over the title was one of a series of wrangles that has delayed the organization of the fund, which was launched in early February and is not expected to begin disbursing funds until some time this summer.

On Wednesday, three Swiss banks, Aare appearing in a federal court in Brooklyn to dispute the three class-action lawsuits that have been filed against them. The court action came a day after the Swiss Bankers' Association agreed in principle to the "partial" disclosure of the names in the Holocaust-related dormant accounts.

The banks said they hope that a mechanism will be implemented soon to permit "public disclosure of names of account holders in the very special and limited circumstances presented by Holocaust-related dormant assets."

"We are taking this position for the purpose of advancing the efforts of the Swiss banks, the Swiss government, Jewish organizations, and others to assist Holocaust victims and their heirs to locate their assets," the bankers said, in a letter to the chairman of the Swiss Federal Banking Commission.

The letter came only days before today's one-year anniversary of the breakthrough agreement between the bankers and the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the World Jewish Congress to conduct an investigative audit of Holocaust-era accounts.

Claimants have contended that, without the names, it is difficult to identify family accounts.

The Swiss banks, however, had refused to publicize the names, citing bank-secrecy laws.

Barak postpones hearing on Bar-On Affair petitions

By BAT-SHEVA TSURI and Ilim

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak has rescheduled the hearing on five petitions regarding the Bar-On Affair for May 14.

Barak decided to postpone the court sessions by three days after receiving a request from the Quality Movement for Quality Government. The movement pointed out that the hearing's original date, May 11, coincided with Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and said that hearing the petitions on that day would be disrespectful to the memory of those who fell and to the bereaved families. The movement also pointed out that it, lawyers wish to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

MK Hanan Portat, in a separate

request to change the original date, said that hearing on the Bar-On Affair would divert public attention from Remembrance Day.

Barak has disqualified himself from the five-member panel that will hear the petitions because he gave evidence to the police team investigating the affair. The court panel will therefore be presided by Justice Shlomo Lohr.

The State Attorney's Office announced yesterday that it does not plan to make public the Rubinfeld-Aron report's minority opinion, which called for the indictment of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Yzhar Hangoth. In a letter to lawyer Uzi Aloni, Uzi Fogelman, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, wrote that the minority opinion

was "internal information" which Netanyahu and Hangoth would not have had access to even if the report had recommended they be indicted.

Meanwhile, Meretz MK Yosi Sardo added an urgent request to release the minority opinion to the High Court petition for Netanyahu and Hangoth's indictment. He also asked for the public findings and recommendations on the affair, saying the information is so pertinent to his petition and that as a representative of the public he has a right to read it.

Dr. Yoel Soreq of Tel Aviv submitted a petition to the High Court yesterday asking for the case against Netanyahu to be closed, not due to lack of evidence but because of Netanyahu's not guilty of wrongdoing.

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